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‘A NEW CHAPTER’

Military exercises put on hold as Trump, Kim sign agreement after summit in Singapore

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President Donald Trump gestures toward the media with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a meeting in Singapore on Tuesday.

Evan Vucci/AP

Some PCSing civilians get tax relief, but others will need new legislation

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

New guidance on the taxation of moving expenses may come as a relief to some federal workers, but many — including retirees and new hires — are still stuck

footing a significant tax bill.

A General Services Administration bulletin submitted last month at the request of Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner — both Virginia Democrats — clarified how employers should with-

hold taxes on moving expenses under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which in part redefined civilian employer-paid and reimbursed moving expenses as taxable income.

The GSA bulletin says agen-

cies can now reimburse “substantially all” moving-related tax expenses for civilians who go from one federal job to another through Withholding Tax Allowance and Relocation Income Tax Allowance payments. Those applicable who

have already had wages taxed will be reimbursed.

However, permanent-change-of-station expenses for new hires and those leaving federal jobs are not eligible for those allowances.

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MILITARY

F-15 training to resume following Japan crash

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Air Force plans to resume F-15 flight training Wednesday, two days after an F-15C Eagle crashed into waters south of the island prefecture in southern Japan.

A stand-down period was announced Monday in the aftermath of the crash, which occurred after 6:36 a.m. local time during a routine training mission out of Kadena Air Base.

The pilot successfully ejected prior to impact and was rescued by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force. The pilot's condition — announced as "serious" Monday evening — was upgraded to "fair" Tuesday, according to a post on Kadena's official Twitter account.

Air Force officials said they decided to resume the training after all F-15 aircraft at Kadena had been inspected and an initial investigation into the cause of the crash had been completed, though

they did not say what that investigation revealed.

"Senior, experienced pilots and maintainers have reviewed the initial facts and circumstances of the mishap and are confident that the incident does not indicate a problem with the overall safety of Kadena's F-15 fleet," the officials said in a statement issued Tuesday evening.

Japanese officials could not be reached for comment after hours. Kadena's 18th Wing said Monday

that a more comprehensive investigation would also take place, and a board of officers would examine the "facts and circumstances that led up to the accident." In the meantime, they vowed to review "operational, maintenance and safety procedures" with unit personnel.

Col. Richard Tanner, 18th Wing vice commander, said the safety of his pilots, the U.S. military base population and local residents remained paramount while meeting

"alliance obligations."

"In the last 24 hours, we've inspected all of our F-15s, and we are confident they are safe to resume training," he said in the statement. "At the same time, we have reinforced the importance of safety and adherence to flight regulations with all of our pilots."

Aircraft operations are particularly sensitive on Okinawa, where crashes have caused civilian casualties in the past.

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Relief: Taxes on PCS-related expenses could add up to the equivalent of 1 or more paychecks

FROM FRONT PAGE

Kaine's office said the GSA reported that 14,353 relocations were authorized for this fiscal year. However, that number doesn't include the thousands of workers moving to start or leave civilian federal jobs.

"It's a shame that federal employees who were willing to relocate for the public good got stuck with surprise bills from their moves, and we're glad we helped get many of them the relief they deserve," Kaine said in an email to Stars and Stripes. "But it's clear more work needs to be done to fully fix this issue."

The GSA bulletin lists the following PCS expenses and reimbursements as taxable income under the new law: lodging; mileage for personal vehicles; airline tickets; household goods and unaccompanied baggage; temporary and extended storage of household goods; mobile home shipments; and transporting personal vehicles.

Other taxable reimbursements include house-hunting trips and temporary quarters subsistence expenses such as meals and lodging, according to Defense Financing and Accounting Services.

The bulletin also noted that the new tax bill lowered the supplemental wage tax from

25 percent to 22 percent. But even with that 3 percent reduction, taxes on PCS-related expenses could add up to the equivalent of one or more paychecks, depending on the move.

Possible relief

Relief could come soon for those ineligible for Withholding Tax Allowance and Relocation Income Tax Allowance payments. Kaine, Warner and Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, are set to propose an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act this week that would open the reimbursement assistance to the thousands of federal new hires and outgoing employees who move each year, according to Kaine's office.

The amendment would essentially change the wording of the guidelines of those eligible for the reimbursement from "employees transferred" to "individuals." Currently, the word "employees" implies that only those working for the government during a move are eligible for the relocation expense reimbursement, not incoming or outgoing individuals.

The amendment would not get rid of the tax bill's provision eliminating moving-related tax deductions, which is expected to

raise about \$1 billion per year for the national budget, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. Rather, it would provide a way to reimburse employees for those tax expenses like some employers may do in the private sector.

If passed, the amendment sponsored by Kaine, Warner and Collins would work retroactively, meaning people already taxed for those expenses since Jan. 1 would be reimbursed.

Kaine said the amendment would help attract qualified job candidates for federal positions.

"For example, it gets harder to recruit teachers to teach kids on our military bases if they're going to get charged with a major fee for their move across the globe," he said in an email. "That's unacceptable, and we'll keep pushing for all of them to get the payment they are owed."

Some federal employee advocate agencies say saddling new hires with taxes on moving expenditures affects more than just employee pocketbooks. H.T. Nguyen, executive director of the Federal Education Association, said it harms the already challenging task of recruiting the best workers — especially to overseas locations.

"These individuals will face tax bills in

the thousands of dollars simply for taking a job overseas or for leaving the school system they have served," he said. "How could this not negatively impact the ability of [Department of Defense Education Activity] to convince qualified educators to come work for them?"

Consequences

Nguyen said the consequences of hurting employee recruitment could have widespread effects. "If you can't recruit the best employees, it goes without saying that the quality of our schools will suffer," he said. "The real losers in all of this will be DODEA students and their families."

Jason Briefel, executive director of the Senior Executives Association — part of a multi-agency effort to petition for the GSA's clarification — said the group was pleased with the GSA bulletin's clarifications, but more needs to be done.

"The end goal is ensuring the government can best compete in the war for talent and that employees who geographically relocate in the name of public service are not significantly taxed for doing so," he said.

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MILITARY

Plan calls for \$709B in defense-related spending

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A proposal for the next massive defense policy plan would authorize \$709 billion to fund a long list of initiatives from pay raises to troop increases to new ships, planes, submarines and missiles, according to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office.

The House-passed version of the next National Defense Authorization Act would raise defense-related funding from 2018 by 2 percent, or \$15.6 billion, according to the agency, which issues cost and budget analysis of proposed legislation on behalf of Congress.

The measure passed the House floor last month in a 351-66 vote.

"The key focus of this bill is restoring readiness to ensure that when our men and women in uniform go out on mission, they have the best equipment, the best training and the best support our nation can provide," Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said after the House passed the NDAA on May 24. "This bill also takes crucial steps toward rebuilding our military and reforming the Pentagon."

The House plan would direct funding for pay raises of 2.6 percent, a boost to active-duty personnel by more than 15,000, an extension of certain bonuses and allowances, consideration of new improvements to the military health care system and purchases of new equipment and weapons.

The Senate was slated to begin more debate on its version of the defense bill



CHRISTIAN GARCIA/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Recruits attend a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program class at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego on May 21. A proposal for the next defense policy plan would add 15,600 new servicemembers, including 100 Marines.

Monday evening. Last month, the Senate Armed Services Committee passed its version of the defense bill, which so far mostly follows the House version.

Both versions of the legislation have been named for Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who left Washington in December in his ongoing battle with brain cancer.

Members of the committee have "heard about the pressing needs of the men and women who serve in harm's way: Greater

readiness. Enhanced weapons capabilities in the air and on the seas. Simpler processes for acquisition. More support for military families," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said last week in early debate of the measure. "This NDAA will help equip our troops with the latest training and the best technology to confront those challenges and keep us safe."

The House plan authorizes policy and spending for the Defense Department, but separate legislation actually funds the measures. The House Appropriations

Committee is slated to consider its defense funding measure Wednesday.

Of the overall \$709 billion that would be authorized by H.R. 5515, about \$639 billion would be considered part of the base budget, while another \$69 billion would be directed for the overseas contingency fund, also known as the war fund.

Compared with 2018 spending, the new plan would boost military personnel spending by \$6.3 billion, or 4 percent; operation and maintenance spending by \$7.6 billion, or 3 percent; and research and development by \$3 billion, or 3 percent, the agency analysis found. It would see procurement costs fall by \$1.9 billion, or 1 percent, the report stated.

The measure would add 15,600 new servicemembers and boost reserve forces by 800, bringing active-duty personnel levels to nearly 1.4 million and more than 800,000 for the reserves, the agency said. In a breakdown of active-duty increases by branch, the Navy would add the most with 7,500 new sailors, followed by the Army and Air Force with about 4,000 servicemembers each and 100 for the Marine Corps.

The House NDAA would also direct new efforts, such as requiring Navy ships based overseas to travel back to the United States for maintenance and repairs, at a cost of \$80 million a year, or \$400 million for five years, the federal agency said.

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31 families to move after ceiling collapse at Vogelweh residence

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Air Force housing officials are preparing to move 31 families from two Vogelweh military housing complexes as quickly as possible after an apartment ceiling collapse that brought down a fan and lighting fixtures.

Twenty-one Army families and 10 Air Force families living in Buildings 1015 and 1019 will be relocated, officials said Monday at a town hall meeting at the Kazalaba Club on Vogelweh. They'll have the choice of moving to a similar apartment on Vogelweh or off base, at government expense. "There's no imminent danger," Lt. Col. George Nichols, the 86th Civil Engineer squadron commander, told six families at the meeting. But "we recognize a ceiling has collapsed and we need to do something about it."

Nichols did not have any estimates of the cost of repairs. No one was hurt in the June 5 incident in Building 1015. But civil engineering officials believe the plastic fasteners used to anchor the drywall ceiling to the concrete floor above it may be the reason it didn't hold.

"It's the wrong type of fastener, apparently," Nichols said.

Civil engineer experts found

following the collapse that plastic anchors were used to attach the ceiling drywall throughout Building 1015 and in Building 1019.

It's believed the plastic anchors have been in place since 2001, when the two buildings were renovated by the same contractor, officials said.

"The chances of having another (incident) we hope are slim; however, no one knows," Nichols said. The anchors "lasted 17 years ... there are so many factors that are unknown as to exactly why it occurred."

Buildings 1015 and 1019 were the only ones known to be renovated at the time by the same contractor, he said. In Building 1016, by contrast, metal ceiling anchors are in place. The contractor has since gone bankrupt and is no longer doing work on base facilities in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, Nichols said.

"We have zero indication that we have this issue systemic across Ramstein, in all 2,000 homes," he said.

The Air Force is consulting with Landesbetrieb Liegenschafts und Baubetreuung, or LLB, the construction management and contracting agency of the state of Rheinland-Pfalz that oversees "the German side of construction" on bases, Nichols said. Officials are going "to explain to them what

we think is the issue. They may come out and do their own testing," he said.

Families will be moved over the next week or so to temporary housing on Vogelweh, where vacant units will be outfitted with loaner furniture from the government. They'll have about five days to move personal belongings to the new units, though that time frame could be extended on a case-by-case basis. They can choose to remain in those apartments or move off base.

Officials said Monday that movers would be able to move the rest of their belongings in July. Families also have the option to move their own furniture sooner and get reimbursed.

Army Sgt. Jalessa Knighton is already in temporary lodging. The ceiling collapse occurred in her apartment in Building 1015. She and her 1-year-old son weren't home at the time.

"We were gone for maybe 30 minutes," she said Monday. "We went to the commissary so I could get him some milk and then we came home."

When Knighton returned, "it looked like the ceiling was snapped in half," she said. "I had to turn back around and come back in and make sure I was in the right place."

Knighton, a transportation man-



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Col. George Nichols, the 86th Civil Engineer Squadron commander at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, talks to families at a town hall Monday on Vogelweh. Thirty-one families are being directed to move after the collapse of the ceiling in a housing unit.

agement coordinator for the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, said that she feels "overwhelmed" but that housing officials have been helpful, ensuring her expenses for temporary lodging are covered. She's moving into a townhouse on Vogelweh later this month.

Other residents of Building 1015 at the town hall Monday said they were home at the time of the ceiling collapse but didn't hear anything.

Kristin Marmolejo, an Army spouse who lives above Knighton, said the last week has been stressful, as she's been alone with her two children while her husband is away on a mission.

"It's very scary, because you never know what's going to happen," Marmolejo said. "It's terrifying, to be honest."

Air Force officials said they

gave residents the option of leaving their apartments for temporary lodging but no one chose to do so.

Katryna Camacho, also an Army spouse, said she'd like to see the Air Force provide additional compensation to cover incidental expenses. "If you're moving from one house to another, there's a lot of extra things that you have to do," from additional cleaning to meals out, she said.

She and her family haven't been in their apartment for very long, having received their household goods in February.

"I'd rather move," she said. "I mean, it sucks, but knowing what could happen, I'd probably rather move."

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MILITARY

Bert Gillott, a U.S. Army Africa protocol officer who served more than 20 years in the Air Force under "don't ask, don't tell," has been a motivating force in U.S. Army Garrison Italy's recognition of LGBT Pride Month in June. He will host a discussion Wednesday featuring LGBT soldiers, civilians and students.

NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes



Retired airman to lead LGBT talk in Italy

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — When most of U.S. Army Garrison Italy's first-ever gay pride event was canceled last year after some parents complained they didn't want their children "indoctrinated," organizer Bert Gillott was frustrated.

"It makes me angry that people still think like that," said Gillott, a retired Air Force master sergeant who spent decades hiding that he was gay. "Parents who don't know anyone who is LGBT, they think we're bad people."

But he was also undeterred. The protocol officer for U.S. Army Africa put his organizational skills to work for this year's event to mark LGBT Pride Month.

Instead of hosting an internationally known activist to speak, as was done last year, he asked soldiers, civilians and students — members of the community — to tell their stories.

The event, at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Soldiers' Theater on Caserma Ederle, will feature a panel discussion with two gay soldiers, including one from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and two women — one a civilian, the other an officer — married to other women. The officer identifies as a lesbian; the other woman does not.

The panel will also include a gay teen and another who identifies as nonbinary, or neither exclusively masculine or feminine.

A transgender student who was to appear on the panel dropped out, despite his parents' support, after realizing "he wasn't comfortable telling his story in front of the community," Gillott said.

The group will sit on sofas on stage discussing their lives in what he hopes will be a relaxed atmosphere, sort of like a talk show, Gillott said. He'll be the moderator.

"My goal is — we have to be visible," Gillott said. "If we're visible, people will know us and see we're just like anyone else."

Before the 2011 repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which led to discharges for thousands of gay and lesbian troops, according to Servicemembers Legal Defense Network — being an open and visible LGBT person in the military was impossible.

Gillott never came out to his mother, he said. Even as she was dying and told him she was sad she'd be leaving him all alone, he

didn't tell her he had a partner.

"Who in their right mind would think that their mother would put them out to the military? But that's the sense of fear that was felt under 'don't ask, don't tell,'" he said.

Lt. Col. Casey Moes, the director of USARAF's operational protection office, who will be on the panel, said she'd grown less fearful of disclosing her sexual orientation after an Iraq deployment. Not being open about a part of her life felt tantamount to "on a daily basis, committing a lie of omission," she said.

"I was comfortable being fairly closeted," Moes said. "But after Iraq, I didn't do a lot of hiding anymore."

Moes, the married mother of twin boys, came out publicly the day the policy was repealed. She routinely talks about her wife and children, who accompany her to various military-associated events. "I know some people aren't cool with it," she said, "and I choose not to think about it."

Parental complaints

Last year, the district superintendent of the Department of Defense Education Activity canceled talks by Stuart Milk to students at the middle and high schools who'd been given parental permission.

Milk is the nephew of Korean War veteran and gay rights icon Harvey Milk, California's first openly gay politician, who was assassinated in 1978.

Scheduled meetings with Milk and both schools' gay-straight alliance clubs were also canceled.

Officials declined to comment on the cancellations, but teachers said that parents had complained. Some asked, "Why is the school trying to indoctrinate our kids to be gay?" Gillott said.

Milk ended up giving just one of his scheduled talks, in an on-base conference room.

It's not clear how many LGBT people serve in the military. A 2011 Rand Corp. report estimated that 2.2 percent of men in the military identified as gay and 10.7 percent of women identified as lesbian.

A 2016 military medical study found that LGBT servicemembers "expressed concern over confidentiality and privacy, fearing that their sexual orientation would be disclosed to others out-

side of the medical community."

Gillott said he finished with hiding long ago. In a transient military community where co-workers come and go, "I think I came out every day," he said.

"We have to be visible and proud of who we are," he said.

Same sex marriage

Support for same-sex marriage among the military community remains strong, though it has risen among the public over the last two decades.

According to a 2017 poll, 62 percent of Americans support it, while 32 percent oppose it. Younger generations are especially supportive. Only a quarter of those born after 1980 said they opposed same-sex marriage, according to the poll.

Support for same-sex marriage has also grown among different religious affiliations. Two-thirds of Catholics now support same-sex marriage, as do 68 percent of white mainline Protestants, according to the Pew Research Center.

It is lower but rising among black Protestants and white evangelical Protestants, according to Pew. In 2016, 27 percent of white evangelical Protestants supported same-sex marriage; 35 percent did a year later.

Political affiliation also predicts support or opposition. Among Democrats, 73 percent favor same-sex marriage, as do 70 percent of independents. But only 40 percent of Republicans do, up from 19 percent in 2008. While data for active-duty political affiliation are sparse, a 2016 Pew poll of veterans found that 56 percent identified as Republicans or leaned toward the GOP, while 40 percent identified or leaned Democratic.

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Pentagon skips memo to mark pride month

By PAUL SONNKE
The Washington Post

Senior leaders at the Pentagon are distancing themselves from the Defense Department's annual LGBT Pride Month celebrations, declining to formally acknowledge the observance for the first time since the practice became routine after President Barack Obama repealed the military's ban on homosexuals serving openly.

The absence this year of an official Pentagon memo marking LGBT Pride Month has raised questions among servicemembers and Defense Department civilian employees who remain troubled by President Donald Trump's surprise proclamation last July that he would ban transgender individuals from serving in the military. Typically, the memo is distributed as LGBT Pride Month begins each June, effectively endorsing the observance and encouraging personnel to hold local events. The memo has put LGBT Pride Month on par with other special observances and heritage months.

"It opens the door for LGBT servicemembers, civilians and their allies on military bases to hold events recognizing Pride Month without having to ask for special permission or an exception," said a former senior Obama administration official, who spoke anonymously because of the official's dealings with the Pentagon. "It makes it known that there's an authorization for that line of support."

Even without an official observance memo, the LGBT employee group at the Defense Department held an event Monday at the Pentagon. Unlike in past years, though, no high-level Defense Department leaders made public remarks.

Another first since such events began in 2012, the year after the policy known as "don't ask, don't tell" was repealed. Instead, Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Md., headlined Monday's gathering.

Air Force Maj. Carla Gleason, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon, declined to discuss why no observance memo has been issued this year, saying only: "The Depart-

ment of Defense supports diversity of all kinds across our military and we encourage everyone to celebrate the diversity of our total force team." We value all members of the DOD total force and recognize their immense contributions to the mission."

Gleason noted, too, that despite the absence of an official memo, the Pentagon's LGBT employee group still has an annual event.

The event's organizers designed this year's promotional posters because, without an official observance memo, the Pentagon's design office was prohibited from doing the work, according to people familiar with the plans.

The Defense Department Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity maintains a website publicizing the posters and memos designating 2018's official observances. As of Monday, it listed only five: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Black History Month, Women's History Month, Holocaust Days of Remembrance, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. In each instance, all materials were distributed across the force in accordance with the plans.

The Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is responsible for issuing the memos. Robert L. Wilkie, Trump's nominee to become the next Veterans Affairs secretary, currently runs the office, pending his confirmation to the Cabinet post.

Trump's transgender ban has yet to go into effect because of ongoing challenges in court. In the meantime, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has recommended a new policy which disqualifies transgender people who require or have already undergone gender transition and bans people with current or recent gender dysphoria except in rare circumstances.

Trump has said he supports Mattis' recommendations.

Trump positioned himself as a supporter of gay rights during his campaign, promising during the Republican National Convention to "protect LGBTQ citizens."

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Afghan general: Number of militants more than thought

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A top Afghan general said Monday that more than 77,000 Taliban and other militants are now fighting against the government — more than double earlier U.S. and Afghan estimates despite a large increase in U.S. airstrikes over the past year.

"It is proven that 77,500 enemies, of whom 5,000 are foreign fighters and 3,000 are Daesh militants, are carrying out activities against our country's peace and stability," Gen. Laif Jan Zaher, commander of the Kabul Military Training Center, told Tolo News. Daesh is an Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

It was not immediately clear how Zaher arrived at that figure, which provided a rare public assessment of enemy numbers.

Zaher's assessment — which others quickly disputed — underscores just how difficult it is to pin down whether the U.S. and its allies are eliminating their enemies on a significant scale.

NATO Resolute Support said in January that its estimates of the Taliban's strength are limited to "informal assessments and conjecture, as there is no formal tracking or census mechanism."

A report by the lead inspector general for the U.S. mission in Afghanistan said NATO estimated that 25,000 to 35,000 full- and part-time Taliban fighters were in the country as of September last year, which is up from about 20,000 following the U.S. force

drawdown in 2014.

The general's estimate came on the eve of a weeklong cease-fire declared by the Afghan government on Taliban fighters in the days surrounding the holy days of Eid. The Taliban have declared their own three-day cease-fire.

Zaher's numbers are much higher than the estimates of the Afghan military — 30,000 to 40,000 fighters, according to Mohammad Radmanish, acting spokesman for the Defense Ministry. He said Zaher's figures were his own opinion.

The estimate of 77,500 suggests that the Taliban is controlling and contesting more territory and that it's comfortable deploying more forces, said Chris Mason, a professor at U.S. Army War College who has researched Taliban and Afghan security forces numbers.

"The significance of the fact that the number has increased almost 100 percent in the last five years is not in the number itself, but rather that the Taliban believes this many men are now operationally relevant and necessary for their current campaigns," said Mason, a retired foreign service officer who served in 2005 as political officer for the provincial reconstruction team in Paktika.

The Taliban leadership can deploy as many fighters from Pakistan as it deems necessary, Mason said. But each area can support only a certain number of guerrillas without creating a backlash among the citizens; therefore, the amount of territory controlled or contested by the Taliban must have gone up since the last esti-

mate, Mason said.

According to an April report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, militants control or control almost 45 percent of the country.

Dawlat Waziri, then-spokesman for the Defense Ministry, told Stars and Stripes in February that it was difficult to get a fixed number of the Taliban militants but that some 40,000 to 60,000 are always active throughout the country.

"Summer they are fighting, winter they go back to Pakistan," Waziri said. "As many (casualties) as they lose, they recruit from (religious schools) in Pakistan."

U.S. officials said in April that there were between 600 and more than 1,000 ISIS militants.

Resolute Support spokesman Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell said last month that he wanted to keep the Taliban and the local branch of ISIS — known as ISIS-Khorasan — in the dark about coalition estimates of their strength lest it give them some advantage.

"The fact is that the number is constantly in flux due to the porosity of the border, arbitrary allegiance changes and, most significantly, our active targeting and removal of this threat to both Afghanistan and the world," O'Donnell said. "Wherever IS-K materializes, they will be eliminated. The same holds true for the Taliban, who have a choice: Recede or die."

Analysts have long suspected that Kabul's official numbers were underestimated Taliban strength.

"The Afghan government has



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Relatives carry the coffin of the victim of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday. A top Afghan general claims the count of militants in the country is more than double earlier estimates.

known for a while that the numbers were inaccurate because it has been dealing with the insurgency," said Kamran Bokhari, senior fellow with the Center for Global Policy in Washington. "The situation remains as bad as before."

Other experts, while surprised at the increased figures, believe the new numbers may be inflated and a bid by Afghan generals to excuse failures in the war.

Rahmatullah Amiri, a Kabul-based researcher on the Taliban who works for the good-government group Liaison Office, puts the number of active and trained Taliban fighters much lower — at 15,000 to 20,000.

"The Afghan government is under pressure from the Afghan people to answer their question: 'Why can't the Afghan security forces contain the Taliban or other insurgent groups?'" Amiri said. "In order to answer this question, the government says, actually they are fighting more than 30,000 people."

About 14,000 U.S. troops are deployed to Afghanistan, an increase of about 3,000 over the levels that held for much of 2017. Most of the Americans deployed support NATO's Resolute Support training and assistance mission, alongside 7,500 international forces, largely away from the battlefield.

Under a separate counterterrorism mission, a special operations task force of about 2,000 troops trains the elite government forces and accompanies tactical-level units.

President Donald Trump announced last fall he was giving U.S. forces wider leeway to attack Taliban insurgents, leading to 225 percent more weapons released in airstrikes in 2017 than in 2016.

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Suicide bombing in Afghanistan kills at least 5

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least five policemen were killed by a suicide bomber using a military Humvee in Afghanistan's eastern Ghazni province, an official said Tuesday.

Arif Noori, the governor's spokesman in Ghazni, said 26 others including a district governor and 18 police were wounded in the attack in Muqar district. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

for the attack.

The Humvee was taken earlier from Afghan forces by Taliban fighters in a separate attack, said Noori.

Also on Tuesday, Islamic State in a statement claimed responsibility for another attack carried out Monday outside the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Ministry in the capital, Kabul, as employees were leaving work, killing 12 people. Afghan officials

said more than 30 others were wounded.

The Taliban have agreed to a cease-fire coinciding with the three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The holiday is set to begin later this week. The ISIS affiliate is not included in the cease-fire.

Meanwhile a provincial official said Taliban insurgents took control of a district headquarters

in northern Faryab province late Monday.

Javed Bedar, spokesman for the provincial governor, said Abdul Rahman Falah, the Kohistan district governor, was killed in the attack.

Mohammad Hanif Rezaie, army spokesman in the northern region, said eight security forces were also killed in the fighting. He added that at least 13 Taliban were killed and nine others wounded.

UN: Worst may still come in Syria after Idlib airstrikes

Associated Press

GENEVA — The U.N. humanitarian agency's top official for Syria expressed concerns Monday about recent airstrikes in rebel-held Idlib province, warning that "we may have not seen the worst of the crisis" in Syria even after seven years of war.

Panos Mouttrisz, of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Hu-

manitarian Affairs, said military escalation could make Idlib's situation "much more complicated and brutal" than in other conflict zones in Syria.

Over the past years, tens of thousands of Syrians have been displaced from other parts of Syria into Idlib, which borders Turkey. The latest waves of opposition fighters and their fami-

lies came from eastern suburbs of Damascus known as eastern Ghouta, northern parts of Homs province and southern neighborhoods of the capital that were recently taken by government forces and their allies.

Mouttrisz's comments came three days after an airstrike on the northwestern village of Zardana killed more than 40 people

in one of the deadliest attacks in Idlib province this year. On Sunday, activists and a war monitor said at least 10 people were killed in airstrikes in Taftanaz, also in Idlib, while five others were killed in the nearby towns of Bin-nish, Ariha and Ram Hammad.

Mouttrisz said that 920,000 people were displaced within Syria between January and April.

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PACIFIC

Trump: US will suspend war games with S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SINGAPORE — The United States will freeze war games with South Korea during nuclear negotiations with the North, President Donald Trump said Tuesday, handing the communist state something it has been demanding for decades.

The stunning announcement reverses decades of U.S. military posture in the region, with joint exercises at the heart of readiness against North Korea's artillery and more than 1 million soldiers poised across the border.

Critics said the decision to halt the drills was a major concession to the North that gained nothing in return. The drills infuriate Pyongyang, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion.

"We will be stopping the war games, unless and until we see that the future negotiation is not going along as well as it should," Trump said during a press conference after his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

He called them "expensive" and "provocative," using terms usually employed by the North Koreans in criticizing the drills.

American commanders are usually cautious in discussing the drills, insisting they are defensive in nature and necessary due to the need to "be ready to fight tonight."

Trump emphasized the cost, noting that the United States flies in supersonic bombers from Guam and deploys other strategic assets to participate.

"So under the circumstances that we're negotiating ... I think it's inappropriate to be having war games," he said.

Renewing vows

Kim, meanwhile, reaffirmed his commitment to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula, something he already had agreed to during his previous summit with the South.

Trump said the North Korean leader also had agreed to destroy a missile.

"We're ready to write a new chapter between our nations," he said.

Trump didn't offer details about halting the exercises, which were already disrupted once this year when springtime drills were delayed for several weeks to make way for the North's participation in the Winter Olympics.

A U.S. Forces Korea spokesman said the command had received no updated guidance on the issue, including about the upcoming exercise known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian that is due to begin in August.

"In coordination with our [South Korean] partners, we will continue with our current military posture until we receive updated guidance from the Department of Defense ... and/or Indo-Pacific Command," Col. Jennifer Lovett told Stars and Stripes in an email.

Washington and Seoul conduct two major sets of exercises each year — Foal Eagle and Key



President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un talk with the media at the Capella resort on Sentosa Island in Singapore on Tuesday.

EVAN VUCCI/AP

Leaders commit to recovery of war remains

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SINGAPORE — President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un committed Tuesday to recovering the remains of servicemen killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. The agreement was one of four points included on the final document signed by the two leaders as they wrapped up their historic summit in Singapore.

Remains of an estimated 5,300 missing American servicemen are in North Korea and potentially recoverable. Previous efforts to find them stalled as tensions rose over the North's nuclear weapons program.

The two sides "commit to recovering POW/MIA remains, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified," read the document, which was displayed by Trump at the ceremony.

The document didn't provide details or a timeline, but it was a start for veterans groups that had lobbied for the issue to be included on the summit agenda.

It also would be a tangible takeaway for Trump from his detente with Kim, which so far has led to few definitive measures by the North.

North Korea also freed three American detainees and let them leave with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last month as a goodwill gesture ahead of the summit.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars sent a letter to Trump last week asking him to raise the issue.

"As the leader of the free world, we urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that those who paid the ultimate price for freedom during

the Korean War are finally returned home to their families," wrote the group's chief, Keith Harman.

The letter was also sent to Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

The VFW said the return of missing servicemen was of "paramount importance" to the Kansas City, Mo.-based organization.

"For the families of those who never returned, the passage of time does not heal their wounds," Harman wrote. "For them, the days became weeks, and the weeks became months, then years, and now, sadly, decades."

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, 7,702 American servicemen remain unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Joint U.S.-North Korean military search teams recovered 229 sets of American remains from North Korea between 1990 and 2005.

The United States was allowed to conduct 33 investigative and recovery operations in the country before former President George W. Bush's administration called off the search, claiming the safety of American participants was not guaranteed.

South Korea is also aiming to use the burgeoning goodwill with the North to ask for permission to recover its war dead.

President Moon Jae-in said earlier this month that he hoped North Korea would allow teams to retrieve remains from the Demilitarized Zone.

South Korea still has more than 120,000 unaccounted for troops from the Korean War.

Stars and Stripes reporter Nikki Wentling contributed to this report.
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The United States has canceled the exercises in past years as part of negotiations with the North that eventually collapsed.

A springtime exercise known as Team Spirit was canceled in 1992 and carried out the next year, according to the website 38 North.

The exercise was planned but not executed from 1994 to 1996 as the Clinton administration hammered out the so-called "Agreed Framework," said 38 North, which is devoted to monitoring North Korean developments.

The deal eventually collapsed and exercises continued, with different names throughout the years.

Kelly Magsamen, a national security specialist with the Center for American Progress, said Tuesday's agreement contained no specific commitments by North Korea.

"This vague agreement is long on trust and short on details and verification," she said in a commentary.

She stressed the need to protect America and its allies, address the nuclear threat from North Korea and protect long-term U.S. interests in Asia.

"In this regard, we are deeply concerned about the signal Trump sent by calling our joint alliance defensive exercises 'provocative,'" she added. "This continues Trump's disturbing pattern of undermining our democratic allies while praising our adversaries."

Servicemembers staying

Trump said he has no plans to reduce the U.S. military troop presence as part of security assurances for the North, but he left open the possibility that he will do so in the future.

"We're not reducing anything," he said when asked about the possibility of a troop reduction. "At some point ... I want to get our soldiers out. I want to bring our soldiers back home."

The U.S. has some 28,500 servicemembers in South Korea as part of the longstanding alliance between the two countries that fought together in the 1950-53 war.

The troops and war games were not mentioned in the final summit document, which focused on security guarantees and a general commitment to denuclearization.

It also included a pledge to improve relations between the two countries.

Moon hailed the results as a "great victory" and "a huge step forward for people across the world who long for peace."

But he acknowledged further negotiations were needed.

Trump said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would meet with a senior South Korean official next week to continue discussions.

"This is just a beginning and there may be many difficulties ahead, but we will never go back to the past again and never give up on this bold journey," Moon said in a statement from his office.

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Resolve in the spring and Ulchi Freedom Guardian in the fall. They also hold smaller training exercises throughout the year.

The drills are a flashpoint for tensions because they infuriate the North, which often issues angry denunciations and threats in response.

'Massive concession'

Experts noted the summit outcome fell far short of the U.S. administration's goal of the complete, verified and irreversible de-

nuclearization of the North.

"The language on denuclearization was stunningly weak, even given low expectations," said Adam Mount, a senior defense analyst at the Federation of American Scientists.

"Trump's offer to end U.S.-South Korea joint exercises is a massive concession," he added. "It runs a considerable risk of damaging the alliance and will likely invite more assertive North Korean requests in the future."

Mount said it's not clear whether Kim requested the freeze

or whether Trump offered it unilaterally.

The announcement took South Korean officials by surprise. President Moon Jae-in's office said it needed to analyze the exact meaning of Trump's comments.

The conservative-led opposition quickly denounced the decision, which came on the eve of local elections.

"South Korea's security is hanging on the edge of a cliff," Hong Joon-pyo, the leader of the Liberty Korea party, wrote on his Facebook page.

PACIFIC

Reaction to summit is hopeful, cautious

BY MARCUS FICHTL
AND SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Crowds of U.S. troops and South Korean civilians gathered around televisions on the peninsula Tuesday to watch a historic meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

At Camp Humphreys — the largest U.S. military base in South Korea — troops saw the leaders shake hands and speak to the reporters in Singapore via the American Forces Network.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Shelton, an explosive ordnance technician, called the meeting “pretty surreal.”

“This conflict has been going since the early ‘50s and here, possibly in my lifetime, we could see the conclusion of it,” he said.

His wife, Sylvia, said she was nervous about going to Korea with her husband and prepared to evacuate at a moment’s notice last year when North Korea test-fired three intercontinental ballistic missiles and conducted its sixth and most powerful underground nuclear blast. “Now it’s peaceful,” she said. “The atmosphere has turned 180.”

Army Staff Sgt. Kane Clendenin, 28, of Savannah, Ga., read the news and discussed the summit with other soldiers at the food court. “I’m hopeful. I think no matter which way it spins, it’s going to better our relationships,” he said. “Long term for us, we’ll probably see a drawdown (of U.S. troops) here if everything goes according to plan. I expect even if peacetime goes perfectly we’ll be here in strength for the next 20 years.”

Clendenin, who works in air-defense at nearby Osan Air Base, said his section con-

trols the launch of Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, batteries and would be the first called to action in the event of a North Korean missile strike.

“(The summit) affects our job, especially here so explicitly,” he said. “You ain’t got nothing to do but pay attention. It’s pretty much our number one focus.”

Clendenin said he hoped the summit would go well. “I hope that it lessens tensions over here. I have my family over here,” he said.

Vietnam War veteran Manuel Salcedo, 69, watched the summit unfold at Yongson Garrison in Seoul, where he’s lived since 1974. He said Trump’s pledge to halt joint war games with the South makes sense if North Korea follows through with denuclearization. “But if they don’t we should restart the exercises,” he said. “It’s got to be mutual.”

Army 1st Lt. Anthem Doolan, 32, of Cleveland, Ohio, also at Yongson, welcomed the positive news from the summit. “I’m half-Korean,” said Doolan, adding that his relatives fled from North Korea during the war. “I’d like to go see where the Korean side of my family originated,” he said.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who delayed a weekly Cabinet meeting to watch Trump and Kim shake hands on television, said “all the attention of our people is on Singapore.”

At Seoul Station in the nation’s capital, several hundred saw a live feed of the leaders’ historic greeting.

Korean War veteran Son Jae Ho, 86, sat on a wooden bench watching Trump and Kim on a state-of-the-art curved television as commuters rushed to nearby train platforms. Son, who became a Korean Aug-



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

People at watch coverage of the summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at Seoul Station in South Korea on Tuesday.

mentation to the U.S. Army soldier tasked with driving a U.S. general around Yongson Garrison after the war, said he thinks Trump is doing a good job.

The summit, he said, is a chance to avert a world war. But whatever its outcome, Son doesn’t think the Koreans should reunify, and he doesn’t want American forces to leave the peninsula. “North Korea is always telling lies,” he said. “Even now with the summit, we can’t trust them. They are demanding money from other countries but we must not give any money to the North.”

U.S. Forces Korea must stay in the south forever, he said. “Without USFK it’s like South Korea is opening the gate for other countries to attack America,” he said.

Retired barber Choi Soon Yong, 70, is too young to remember the Korean War, but he served three years of compulsory military service and is hopeful that his country will reunify. “I want world peace,” he said. “I don’t want fighting, and I hope everything goes well during the summit.”

North Korea should dismantle its nucle-

ar weapons and the two countries should embark on a step-by-step process of reunification, he added.

Park Joonja, 52, stopped to watch the summit coverage on her way to catch a train. “Our country is the only divided country in the world,” she said. “I would never have imagined such an historic thing as this happening today. I wish everything goes in the right direction.”

Park said she was impressed by Trump’s effort. If reunification happens, she said she’d like to travel to Pyongyang to see how people live up there.

Her daughter, daycare teacher Kang Youngjoo, 25, said the 7-year-old children she looks after study reunification, learning about how people in the North talk and dress. “If there is any chance in the future I would like to travel to the North with my kids,” she said.

Stars and Stripes correspondent Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.

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WONG MAYA/EAP

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman arrive at Singapore’s Changi Airport on Tuesday.

Former NBA star Rodman weeps as Trump, Kim meet

Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Former NBA star Dennis Rodman openly wept on television in a live interview from Singapore on Tuesday as President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met for the first time. He told The Associated Press he hopes to soon visit the White House.

The eccentric former reality

television star is one of the few Westerners to have spent time with Kim during multiple visits to Pyongyang. The two struck up an unlikely friendship over their shared love of basketball. Rodman also goes back years with Trump and appeared on his “Celebrity Apprentice” show.

In an emotional and sometimes hard-to-follow interview with CNN’s Chris Cuomo, Rodman,

wearing sunglasses and a “Make America Great Again” hat, said he had received a call from the White House ahead of Trump’s historic meeting with Kim.

Rodman later told the AP in a phone interview that the call had come from White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. “She sent her best wishes and said that Donald Trump is really proud of you. He’s happy

you’re having some type of part of this whole situation,” Rodman recalled her saying. “He’s very happy to carry out the things I’ve been saying.”

Sanders did not immediately respond to questions about the call.

Rodman suggested he helped lay at least the groundwork for the summit, joking to the AP that he “should be pushing for the Nobel Peace Prize.”

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MILITARY

Lawmakers push for say on Trump-Kim deal

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Several lawmakers expressed alarm Tuesday with President Donald Trump's plans to halt military exercises with U.S. ally South Korea following his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, with some of them arguing any deal has to be ratified by Congress.

Among them, Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he was caught off guard since Trump had said military cooperation would not necessarily be part of a first meeting with Kim Jong Un. "I'm very troubled today. This concession today, I was surprised, frankly," Perdue said during a breakfast meeting with reporters. "But I don't think it's as big a deal as it might appear this morning, just because we have so many other things in the region. However, the coordination with the South Korean military is absolutely critical."

On Tuesday, Trump stunned some watchers of the summit in Singapore when he said the United States would suspend joint exercises with South Korea, making a major concession to the North while seemingly receiving nothing in return. The move would reverse decades of U.S. military posture in the region, with joint exercises at the heart of readiness efforts against the rogue regime's artillery and more than 1 million soldiers.

The drills infuriate Pyongyang, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion of the North.

"It's clear that Kim Jong Un walked away from Singapore with exactly what he wanted — the pomp, circumstance and prestige of a meeting with the president of the United States — while making no specific commitments in return," said Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va. "Whether this will result in a verifiable agreement to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program, America and the world will wait to find out."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said he was concerned that none of North Korea's human rights violations was addressed. Instead, he said Trump offered "a military exercise in exchange for the mere hope that North Korea will freeze its illegal nuclear testing regime."

"What the United States has



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., says any negotiations between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump, shown above, should focus on economic efforts, not military operations.

gained is vague and unverifiable at best. What North Korea has gained, however, is tangible and lasting," Schumer said from a meeting with Chairman Kim. President Trump has granted a brutal and repressive dictatorship the international legitimacy it has long craved. The symbols that were broadcast all over the world last night have lasting consequences."

The United States has about 28,500 servicemembers in South Korea as part of the longstanding alliance between the two countries that fought together in the Korean War, which lasted from 1950 to 1953. Trump said he has no plans to decrease the number of U.S. troops in the South as part of security assurances for the North, but he left open the possibility that he will do so in the future.

Perdue and others said any negotiations should focus on economic efforts, not military operations. The troops and joint exercises were not mentioned in the final summit document, which focused on security guarantees and a general commitment

to denuclearization.

"This was an historic first step in an important negotiation," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. However, "if North Korea does not prove willing to follow through, we and our allies must be prepared to restore the policy of maximum pressure."

House Speaker Rep. Paul Ryan agreed a successful deal with the North will take time.

"As negotiations now advance, there is only one acceptable final outcome: complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization," said Ryan, R-Wis. "We must always be clear that we are dealing with a brutal regime with a long history of deceit. Only time will tell if North Korea is serious this time, and in the meantime we must continue to apply maximum economic pressure. The road ahead is a long one, but today there is hope that the president has put us on a path to lasting peace in the Korean Peninsula."

Washington and Seoul conduct two major sets of military exercises each year — Foal Eagle and Key Resolve in the spring and Ulchi Freedom Guardian in

the fall. They also hold smaller training exercises throughout the year.

Trump hasn't offered details about halting the exercises, which were already disrupted this year when springtime drills were delayed for the Winter Olympics, which took place in South Korea. The United States also canceled the exercises several times in the 1990s as part of negotiations with the North that eventually collapsed.

"The idea that the president said this might be on the table doesn't mean that it's a signed part of any agreement," Perdue said. "I wouldn't be surprised if it isn't part of the final deal."

A U.S. Forces Korea spokeswoman said the command had received no updated guidance on the issue, including about the upcoming Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise that is due to begin in August.

"In coordination with our (South Korean) partners, we will continue with our current military posture until we receive updated guidance from the Department of Defense ... and/or Indo-Pacific Command," Col.

China: Consider easing sanctions on N. Korea

BEIJING — China suggested Tuesday that the U.N. Security Council consider suspending or lifting sanctions against North Korea if the country is in compliance with U.N. resolutions and making progress in diplomatic negotiations.

Hours after talks between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump in Singapore, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the Security Council's sanctions were designed to be adjusted and could be suspended or lifted in accordance with the North's actions.

The Security Council could consider loosening or lifting sanctions on North Korea "in accordance with the compliance of the (North Korean) side and the development of the situation," he said at a daily briefing in Beijing.

"Sanctions are not an end," he said. "We believe the Security Council should make efforts to support the diplomatic efforts at the present time."

The Chinese position echoes comments made by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who called for a lifting of sanctions during a May visit to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. U.S. officials believe that harsh sanctions have been instrumental in the "maximum pressure campaign" to bring Kim to the negotiating table.

Trump ruled out immediate sanctions relief for North Korea after his meeting with Kim, saying it would come "when we are sure that the nukes are no longer a factor."

From The Associated Press

Jennifer Lovett told Stars and Stripes in an email.

Stars and Stripes reporter Kim Gabel contributed to this report. grisales.claudia@starsandstripes.com Twitter: @cgrisales

Smith takes helm leading special ops troops in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Maj. Gen. Kirk W. Smith took command Tuesday of special operations troops in Europe, where he will lead a team of Green Berets and SEALs working to bolster allied militaries along NATO's eastern flank.

Smith replaces Maj. Gen. Mark Schwartz, who led Special Opera-

tions Command Europe for the past two years.

U.S. European Command boss Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti credited Schwartz with improving the integration of special operations troops with the elite units of partner nations as well as conventional forces.

The readiness of EUCOM's crisis response force also increased during Schwartz's tenure, Scaparrotti said.

"You remain EUCOM's first responders," Scaparrotti said.

Schwartz will serve as the next deputy commander for the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C.

U.S. Special Operations Command chief Gen. Tony Thomas, who was on hand for the change-of-command ceremony, said that during the past two years special operators in Europe have adapted to a more challenging security



Smith

environment. "SOCEUR has evolved into a mature joint headquarters," Thomas said.

In Smith, he said, SOCEUR has "a tremendously talented" leader who is

"the right man to lead SOCEUR forward."

Smith, who previously helped lead NATO special operations efforts in Afghanistan out of Bagram Air Field, comes to Germany at a time of transition for EUCOM as it contends with a resurgent Russia in the east and instability to the south.

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NATION

US office to seek citizenship cheats

By AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. government agency that oversees immigration applications is launching an office that will focus on identifying Americans who are suspected of cheating to get their citizenship and seek to strip them of it.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna told The Associated Press in an interview that his agency is hiring several dozen lawyers and immigration officers to review cases of immigrants who were ordered deported and are suspected of using fake identities to later get green cards and citizenship through naturalization.

Cissna said the cases would be referred to the Department of Justice, whose attorneys could then seek to remove the immigrants' citizenship in civil court proceedings. In some cases, government attorneys could bring criminal charges related to fraud.

Until now, the agency has pursued cases as they arose but not through a coordinated effort, Cissna said. He said he hopes the agency's new office in Los Angeles will be running by next year

but added that investigating and referring cases for prosecution will likely take longer.

"We finally have a process in place to get to the bottom of all these bad cases and start denaturalizing people who should not have been naturalized in the first place," Cissna said. "What we're looking at, when you boil it all down, is potentially a few thousand cases."

He declined to say how much the effort would cost but said it would be covered by the agency's existing budget, which is funded by immigration application fees.

The push comes as the Trump administration has been cracking down on illegal immigration and taking steps to reduce legal immigration to the U.S.

Immigrants who become U.S. citizens can vote, serve on juries and obtain security clearance. Denaturalization — the process of removing citizenship — is very rare.

The U.S. government began looking at potentially fraudulent naturalization cases a decade ago when a border officer detected about 200 people had used different identities to get green cards and citizenship after they were previously issued deportation orders.

US rules against university's bullying, harassment policies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — University of Michigan policies prohibiting harassment and bullying on campus are unconstitutional and cannot be enforced, the Justice Department said Monday in siding with a free speech group that has challenged the school in court.

The Trump administration argued that the school policies trample on students' First Amendment rights because they fail to define the scope of banned words or actions. The government also challenged the legality of a specialized team of administrators and law enforcement officials that it says is responsible for responding to allegations of bias on campus.

"Instead of protecting free

speech, the University imposes a system of arbitrary censorship of, and punishment for, constitutionally protected speech," Justice Department lawyers wrote.

In response, the university said the Justice Department had misstated school policy and mischaracterized the duties of its Bias Response Team.

The Michigan case marks the fourth time the Justice Department in the Trump administration has interjected itself into a First Amendment court dispute. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has repeatedly chastised universities for what he says are efforts to restrict free speech and shield students from what may be unpopular or minority opinions on college campuses.



ELLIOT SPAGAT/AP

People seeking asylum in the U.S. line up to be interviewed last week in Tijuana, Mexico. U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday that immigration judges cannot consider domestic and gang violence in weighing requests for asylum.

Sessions: Domestic violence, gangs no basis for asylum

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Immigration judges generally cannot consider domestic and gang violence as grounds for asylum, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday in a ruling that could affect large numbers of Central Americans who have increasingly turned to the United States for protection.

"Generally, claims by aliens pertaining to domestic violence or gang violence perpetrated by non-government actors will not qualify for asylum," Sessions wrote in a 31-page decision. "The mere fact that a country may have problems effectively policing certain crimes — such as domestic violence or gang violence — or that certain populations are more likely to be victims of crime, cannot itself establish an asylum claim."

The widely expected move overruled a Board of Immigration Appeals decision in 2016 that gave asylum status to a woman from El Salvador who fled her husband. Sessions reopened the case for his review in March as

the administration stepped up criticism of asylum practices.

Sessions took aim at one of five categories to qualify for asylum — persecution for membership in a social group — calling it "inherently ambiguous." The other categories are for race, religion, nationality and political affiliation.

Domestic violence is a "particularly difficult crime to prevent and prosecute, even in the United States," Sessions wrote, but its prevalence in El Salvador doesn't mean that its government was unwilling or unable to protect victims any less so than the United States.

Sessions said the woman obtained restraining orders against her husband and had him arrested at least once.

"No country provides its citizens with complete security from private criminal activity, and perfect protection is not required," he wrote.

The government does not say how many asylum claims are for domestic or gang violence but their advocates said there could be tens of thousands of domestic violence cases in the current im-

migration court backlog.

Karen Musalo, co-counsel for the Salvadoran woman and a professor at University of California Hastings College of Law, said the decision could undermine claims of women suffering violence throughout the world, including sex trafficking.

"This is not just about domestic violence, or El Salvador, or gangs," she said. "This is the attorney general trying to yank us back to the dark ages of rights for women."

Sessions sent the case back to an immigration judge, whose ruling can be appealed to the Justice Department's Board of Immigration Appeals and then to a federal appeals court, Musalo said. She anticipates other cases in the pipeline may reach the appeals court first.

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat, said the decision was "despicable and should be immediately reversed." And 15 former immigration judges and Board of Immigration Appeals members signed a letter calling Sessions' decision "an affront to the rule of law."



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NATION



PHOTOS BY KEVIN D. LILES/For The Washington Post

Chris Buckley tattooed "Infidel" in Arabic on his left forearm during an Army tour in Afghanistan. "I wanted them to know I was the one the imam warned them about," he said.

From the Klan to a new man

Veteran works to change his mindset after lifetime of hate

By STEVE HENDRIX
The Washington Post

LAFAYETTE, Ga. — Chris Buckley walks out to his porch, where the doorman once greeted customers at a Subway, and looks up and down the empty street.

"I admit it, I'm nervous," he says, lighting a cigarette with heavily tattooed hands.

His densely colored arms are a paisley record of his many hates.

KKK symbols dot his left knuckles; another is below his navel. An anti-government militia tag covers his neck. Most prominent is the big word in Arabic emblazoned on the back of his forearm: "Infidel."

"I wanted them to know I was the one the imam warned them about," he says, looking down at the mark he himself tattooed on his skin during a hot, angry week in Helmand province.

It was one of three deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, during which the former Army sergeant fired thousands of live rounds at an enemy he learned to despise.

Admitting to nerves doesn't come easily to a man who built his life denying fear, who thrived in combat, who never hesitated to snort or swallow any abusable substance, who burned crosses in public.

But months of halting transformation have led to this moment and the arrival of an unlikely guest.

Buckley, a machine mechanic at a carpet mill, lights his second Marlboro in 10 minutes, blowing blue smoke into the warm spring morning.

"I worry that he's going to be disappointed," Buckley says, scanning the road.

Leaving the door open, he paces back into the apartment, one of three in a single-family home, where his two kids sleep on a frameless mattress in the only bedroom. Buckley and his wife, Melissa, sleep in the living room, next to the bathroom that has no door and a kitchen with only a dorm fridge. When Buckley is off

'I don't know what I want to do. I just want to do good to make up for all the bad.'

Chris Buckley
Army veteran and former KKK member



probation for drug possession in February they hope to move.

Melissa is more concerned about his reaction than the visitor he's waiting for. The last time he got close to a Muslim, he shoved the man into a rack of potato chips in his own gas station.

She had spent years with that version of her husband, the one-time imperial nighthawk of the Georgia White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan who despised "towel heads," swore Barack Obama was a Muslim agent and believed terrorists were pouring into the country disguised as refugees.

She was still getting to know this version, the one who had invited one of those refugees to her home.

"What if it's like the gas station all over again?" she asks, arranging a peony bloom in a plastic sippy cup.

"He's here," Buckley calls, flipping his cigarette as a black Mercedes sedan arrives.

Out steps a tall man with stylish glasses and glossy black hair. Like Buckley, he's 34.

He has a nice car now that he is a doctor in Atlanta, but he grew up in Kurdish refugee camps and apartments as bleak as the one he's about to enter in this small town in the North Georgia hills.

It's the reason he's here, to see what a Kurd might have in common with an ex-Klansman.

"Are you ready for your blind

date?" asks Heval Mohamed Kelli, his hand out, the faded shades of Syria faint in his accent.

The enforcer

A few days before Kelli's visit, the Buckleys were on the couch that doubles as their bed watching a home movie of sorts. It was a 2015 documentary on the Klan streaming on Netflix.

In it, Buckley stands in a black hooded robe, red Klan cross on his chest, white rope around his waist. Next to him, 4-year-old Chris Jr. — C.J., the same boy now running in and out of the living room with a gray puppy at his heels — was standing in a matching pre-K version of the robe.

Buckley throws a Sieg Heil salute.

"White Power!" shouts the father.

"White power!" repeats the son, his little arm extended to the sky. It comes out "pie-er" in his pint-size voice.

As a nighthawk, Buckley was the enforcer of the Klan's code. In dark barns and back fields, he taught his Klan brothers how to use and conceal weapons, close-quarters fighting, surveillance, secrecy.

He won't describe many of his activities because he doesn't want to be prosecuted.

They carried weapons of all kinds — knives to assault rifles

— hidden under the robes. At supposedly peaceful rallies, most Klansmen were armed and many were high, he said.

Buckley was particularly accomplished at burning crosses, sometimes on farms and secluded lots, but often in public view. He torched a towering cross near the highway leading into Summerville, Ga., a glowing warning to the town's growing populations of Latinos and blacks.

Learning hate

Buckley learned hate, and violence, during a tumultuous childhood in Cleveland.

His father would return from dayslong benders and routinely whip Buckley for any misdeeds he might have committed in his absence. Feminism was stupid, homosexuality was wrong and whites only dated whites.

Buckley, who joined the Army when he was a high school junior, had black comrades in the military, but not friends. He remembers the guy in his last deployment who was mixed race. He called him "Halffrican." "It wasn't a big deal to me or him," Buckley said.

Muslims, though, were a big deal. Seeing an attacker beneath every niqab wasn't just self-protection, it was training.

"Every paper target I ever shot was a Muslim," Buckley said.

"Every bit of bayonet training or hand-to-hand combat, it was other soldiers dressed up like Muslims."

The hatred outlasted the uniform. Buckley left the Army after 13 years following a Humvee accident that left him with a broken back and an addiction to painkillers.

When the doctors cut him off, he started buying on the street. Soon came cocaine, mushrooms and "the love of my life," meth. He was eventually using two grams a day and spending hundreds a week on his habit.

"He wasn't the man I married," says Melissa, who met Buckley when he was part of a unit delivering flood-relief supplies to her remote house in Hazard, Ky.

He would leave for the store and call from jail. His daughter took her first steps when he was on a three-week bender.

The family bounced between Kentucky, Ohio and Georgia, places where conservative outrage was building over same-sex marriage, Black Lives Matter and refugees "pouring into the country."

"You start noticing all these tensions," Buckley says, "and you feel like you have to pick a side."

Googling the Klan

In the spring of 2015, he picked one. He came home one day to find his sister-in-law's black pot dealer sitting on his couch. He kicked the man out, declared his home a white sanctuary and started Googling "protecting the white race." It took him minutes to find the Klan.

At first, Melissa didn't object because she thought it might offer her floundering husband a path to stability.

Then one day in a Walmart parking lot, a group of black women berated Melissa and the kids as she unlocked their car, a Nissan Pathfinder painted hood-to-trunk with a Confederate flag.

SEE CHANGE ON PAGE 11

NATION

Change: Veteran learns to accept help, and in seeking purpose learns to give it

FROM PAGE 10

At the same Walmart months later, C.J. tugged at his father's T-shirt shirt in the checkout line. "Look out, Daddy, there's a big n---- behind you," he said. Buckley turned to see a beefy black man behind him with a gallon of milk.

Buckley gave an embarrassed shrug. "Kids, huh?" he said. The man didn't smile.

Time for change

Melissa began to see Klan life as a threat to her children. Her slur-spouting son was due to start school. Something had to change. It was her turn to Google.

"How do I get my husband out of a hate group?" she typed. The result: Arno Michaelis.

A recovered Nazi skinhead-turned-Buddhist, Michaelis has built a national reputation as a "warrior for peace" who runs an informal underground railroad for racists who want out.

Michaelis was involved with planning for a possible A&E reality television series about rescuing Klan members, and Melissa agreed to participate. The producers contacted Buckley separately, asking if he wanted to appear in a documentary about the Klan.

"They didn't tell me the point was to get me out," Buckley says.

In the summer of 2016, he was tossing a baseball with C.J.—and high on meth—when Melissa, Michaelis and a cameraman walked into the yard. It didn't help. Michaelis said he was there to help. Buckley promptly told them to get off his property.

It took months. Buckley would agree to talk. Michaelis would listen to his racist rhetoric, gently push back and remind him that he'd been in his shoes.

"It was all boiling down to Muslims. He wasn't ready to go there," Michaelis said.

But after four months, with Melissa threatening to leave with the kids, Buckley agreed to give Michaelis his Klan patch. He wanted out.

Buckley called his Klan chap-

ter's imperial wizard—one of his closest friends. The two argued for an hour, but Buckley stood his ground. He was leaving.

"Do I need to watch my back?" Buckley asked. The imperial wizard didn't respond.

A few weeks later, the Klan leader asked whether they could talk things over, have some beers. He picked Buckley up in his truck, drove him down a wooded road where the headlights soon illuminated four robed Klansmen waiting to beat him. Buckley said he waded in willingly; it was Klan law, and he felt he owed them that much. "Hell, I trained three of them," he said.

Hate draining away

Buckley talks now of the hate draining away. Hoping to fill the vacuum with empathy, Michaelis took Buckley on a compassion tour of homeless shelters and gang rehab centers in Los Angeles. At one, Buckley began a conversation with a black woman that ended with him sobbing in her arms, apologizing for all the pain he had inflicted.

"That's when I knew Chris wouldn't be going back to the Klan," Michaelis says.

But there still were the drugs. Buckley's addiction had gotten worse. He was busted for possession. He would stay clean for a week and then relapse for two.

It was only after being arrested again last summer for felony possession that he got a serious start on sobriety. He detoxed during his four-month sentence and then opted for an intensive probationary rehab program. One week turned into a month, a month into 177 days and counting.

He has become a model participant, his thick workbook filled with completed essays and check marks for each sober day. "I take a lot of pride in it," Buckley says.

Michaelis did too. Early in 2018, he thought Buckley was ready for the last session.

"Chris, I want you to meet my guy Heval."

The meeting

They had been talking for almost four months when Heval Mohamed Kelli steps onto the porch. Buckley holds out his hand, but the shake instantly gives way to a hug. Not a bro hug, but a full chest-to-chest embrace. Kelli's Ray-Bans against Buckley's yinyang earlobe plugs.

Kelli then embraces Melissa. C.J. and Miera, 3, run in and stare.

"I brought something: I hope you're not offended," Kelli says, stepping out and pulling two large Ross bags from his trunk. Among the loot, a remote control car and a Play-Doh Fun Factory.

"It's a Kurdish custom to bring gifts," he explains.

From poverty to prestige

Kelli can see the entire apartment from just inside the door. It is similar to the place his family lived in for their first 12 years in United States. And that had been an upgrade from the resettlement camp in Herscheid.

"In Germany, we had one bathroom for four families," Kelli says.

He was 12 when his family fled Syria after his father, an Aleppo lawyer, got crosswise with a regime that persecuted the Kurdish minority. After six years in Germany, they were granted asylum in the United States in 2001.

They landed in Clarkston, an Atlanta suburb that is home to one of the country's biggest refugee communities.

"I came 10 days after 9/11," he tells Buckley.

"I had just finished basic training," Buckley responds.

Kelli was 18 and didn't speak English. But he drilled himself in vocabulary as he washed dishes at a Mediterranean restaurant. He soon graduated from Clarkston High School and then from Georgia State University. When Kelli finished up at the Marchese School of Medicine, he bought his family a new house.

Now Kelli is finishing a cardiolo-



PHOTOS BY KEVIN D. LILES/ For The Washington Post

Heval Mohamed Kelli and Chris Buckley embrace as they meet after almost four months of exchanging messages and phone calls.

gy fellowship at Emory University and planning a career split between medicine and giving back to all the communities he credits with propelling him from poverty to prestige.

He has started a mentorship program at Georgia State to help refugee kids. He works monthly at the short-staffed Atlanta VA hospital, saying he's humbled to serve those who served his adopted country, and volunteers at numerous clinics providing free care to the underserved. And he spends part of every day in Clarkston visiting refugee families and acting as their liaison to the American culture he has mastered and loves.

After the 2016 election, Kelli adopted a new mission: meeting as many supporters of Donald Trump as he could and offering himself as an ambassador for Islam, for refugees, for Syrians, Kurds, the brown, the poor. With a ready smile and open ears, he found success.

Last year, after Trump canceled the White House's Ramadan dinner, Kelli organized a public iftar—the meal Muslims use to break their dawn-to-dusk fasting during the holy month of Ramadan. He invited one of his patients, an Iraq War veteran.

The man came with friends, 15 bearded, motorcycle-vest-wearing vets amid a crowd of hijab-wearing Muslims. More than 400 people attended the dinner; they are planning a second one this month and expect double the crowd.

He wants Buckley to be among them.

This is why Michaelis, who met Kelli at an anti-Islamophobia conference, wanted the two to meet. If anyone could get the former Klansman to an iftar, it's the affable Kurd with a deep love for Americans of all stripes.

"That would be something," Buckley says when Kelli brings it up, looking at Melissa. It's complicated. His probation requires him to be home by 7 p.m. without special permission.

'I just want to do good'

Before going to lunch at the Dari Dip, where Melissa has just gotten a job as a waitress, they take Kelli across the street to show him the Haven.

Started as an informal church next to an insurance agency, the five-room former office has

become a busy day shelter for Walker County's neediest. The homeless, hungry, struggling addicts of all races find their way in for donated hot dishes, a nap by the fireplace, help with county assistance forms.

Buckley says the Haven has filled the time that meth used to consume. He works in its small garden, serves food, runs errands some days and Narcotics Anonymous meetings on others.

Tanya Nave, one of the Haven founders, tells Kelli how Buckley became a Haven mainstay after first refusing their help several months earlier. The family had been living at a dive motel where volunteers handed out sandwiches.

Buckley always refused, sometimes rudely.

He changed. He learned to accept help and then to give it.

"Now I feel like this place is my purpose," Buckley says.

On many issues, Buckley remains the firebrand re-poster of conservative memes on Facebook. He defiantly—proudly—spans his kids in public. ("I look for the cameras in Walmart.")

His first phone talk with Kelli was a 45-minute defense of gun rights. (The only restriction he supports is barring those being treated for mental illness from buying guns.) He complains that he must rely on a translation app to communicate with his Latino colleagues.

But while he wants those workers to learn English, he doesn't hate them as he once did. He calls Martin Luther King Jr. a hero. He befriends those he once despised.

"What do you want to do [next] Chris?" Kelli asks as they leave the Haven.

They talk about making speeches together, about Michaelis' work extricating Klan members. It all seems possible, and thrilling.

"I don't know what I want to do," Buckley says. "I just want to do good to make up for all the bad."

Later, after hugs and goodbyes for the Muslim refugee he now calls "brother," Buckley stands in his muddy yard, lights a Marlboro and watches C.J. playing with the remote control car Kelli gave him.

"I know one thing I'd like to do," he says through the smoke. "Go to that Ramadan dinner."



Buckley stands outside the Haven, an informal church in LaFayette, Ga., where he volunteers and spends much of his free time.

NATION

Fire danger forces forest closure in Colo.

By COLLEEN SLEVIN
Associated Press

DENVER — Extreme fire danger prompted officials to shut down a sprawling forest that includes some of Colorado's most stunning mountains in a region that attracts tourists from around the world, a rare tactic also being used in neighboring states as the Southwest struggles with severe drought.

National forests and parks in Arizona and New Mexico have already been shut down as precautions.

San Juan National Forest officials in southwestern Colorado planned to close hundreds of miles of trails and thousands of miles of

back roads to hikers, bikers, horseback riders and campers as soon as Tuesday to prevent the possibility of an abandoned campfire or any other spark from starting a wildfire. It's the first full closure of a national forest in Colorado since 2002, which was another very dry year.

The closure will remain until sufficient precipitation eases the fire danger.

The move comes as the residents of more than 2,000 homes have been forced to evacuate because of a fire that started June 1 in the forest and had spread to about 35 square miles as of Monday. Authorities are still investigating how the fire started.

No homes have been lost, al-

though the fire came close to buildings Sunday night, authorities said. Fire managers credited advance fire mitigation work by homeowners for helping firefighters save the structures.

Much of the West is experiencing some level of drought, and the Four Corners region — where Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado meet — is at the center of a large patch of exceptional drought.

In New Mexico, the Santa Fe National Forest, along with portions of three national park sites, closed June 1 because of the fire danger. The forest is among New Mexico's most popular getaways.

The U.S. Forest Service also

is planning to bar recreation in a handful of ranger districts in the Chibola National Forest outside of Albuquerque, N.M., beginning Friday.

Portions of national forests in Arizona were closed in late May because of severe fire conditions.

Full forest closures are not common, and the Forest Service stresses they're done only as a last resort.

The Coconino National Forest in Arizona shut down completely because of fire danger in 2006 for nine days. A 2002 shutdown lasted nine weeks, including both the Memorial Day and July 4 holidays, and other national forests had closures that year.

Colorado's latest closure will also bar nonrecreational uses, although ranchers, for example, who use some of the forest's more than 2,800 square miles for grazing, will be able to seek exemptions, San Juan National Forest spokeswoman Cam Hooley said.

If any exemptions are granted, those users would be required to take precautions, such as carrying water, shovels and fire extinguishers, and possibly will be allowed in only during certain times of the day, she said.

"We recognize that this is difficult for the local businesses and the local economy and just ask that people just be understanding and patient," Hooley said.

Gang life in Chicago by social media

By MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Lamanta Reese lived much of his gang life in virtual reality, posting videos on YouTube of him and others taunting rivals.

He died at age 19 in the real world, bleeding from his head onto a porch on Chicago's South Side after one of his gang rivals, prosecutors say, shot him 11 times. Another possible factor in his slaying: a smiley-face emoji Reese posted that the suspected gunman may have interpreted as a slight about his mom.

Gangs' embrace of social media to goad foes or conceal drug dealing in emoji-laden text is the biggest change in how gangs operate compared with 10 years ago, according to new law enforcement data provided exclusively to The Associated Press ahead of its release Tuesday by the Chicago Crime Commission. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other sites have radically altered gang culture in Chicago. There are having a similar influence on gangs nationwide.

These days, there is nearly always a link between an outbreak of gang violence and something online, said Rodney Phillips, a gang conflict mediator who works in the low-income Englewood neighborhood where Reese lived and died. When he learns simmering tensions have spilled into violence, he no longer goes first to the streets.

"I Google it," Phillips said. "I look on YouTube and Facebook. Today, that's how you follow the trail of a conflict."

Asked what led to his son's death, Reese's father, William Reese, answered promptly: "Something on the internet." He said his son and Quinton "ManMan" Gates, later charged with first-degree murder in the killing, had been trading barbs on Facebook.

Updated gang maps also being released in a Chicago Crime Commission Gang Book chart the turf of 59 gangs, from Reese's Black Disciples to the lesser-known Crazy Get Down Boys.

They illustrate how gangs have splintered into smaller, less disciplined factions quicker to resort to violence. The last



YouTube/AP

This frame grab from video shows a member of one of Chicago's gangs walking into the territory of another gang with a gun in his hand.

Gang Book — used as a guide by regional police — was published in 2012.

Gangs put a premium on retaliation for perceived disrespect. In the past, insults rarely spread beyond the block. Now, they're broadcast via social media to thousands in an instant.

"If you're disrespected on that level, you feel you have to act," said Phillips,

employed with Target Area, a nonprofit group that seeks to defuse gang conflicts.

Reese, whose nickname was Taedoe, was prolific on Twitter, posting 28,000 tweets under the handle @taedoeDaShotta.

He displayed bravado but was also introspective, tweeting about his odds of

dying a violent death. One of his last tweets read: "Death Gotta Be Easy Because Life is Hard."

Police say there was a gang connection to most of the 650 homicides in Chicago recorded in 2017 — more than in Los Angeles and New York City combined. Homicides so far in 2018 are down about 20 percent. Police partly credit better intelligence and the deployment of officers to neighborhoods on the anniversaries of gang killings.

So integral is social media to gang dynamics that when Englewood-area pastor Corey Brooks brokered a truce between factions of the Black Disciples and Gangster Disciples in 2016, he insisted they agree to refrain from posting taunts. The

gang truce lasted longer than most — 18 months.

Some gangs provoke enemy gangs by streaming live video showing them walking through rival turf. Others face off using a split-screen function on Facebook Live and hurl abuse at each other.

Chicago gangs maximize attention with videos of themselves performing an aggressive style of hip-hop called drill rap. Reese was among his gang's rappers. In a video posted before he died, he and his gang brandished guns, flashed gang signs and cursed, singing, "We want war? We're gonna give 'em war."

The Black Disciples' historic enemies include the Gangster Disciples and Micky Cobras. But authorities say Gates, 19, was a fellow Black Disciple but from a different faction. Gates' Mac Block is across Halsted Street from Reese's faction, called LowLife. Each controls four square blocks.

The Chicago Crime Commission materials list more than 2,000 gang factions. Successful prosecutions in the 1990s of gang bosses, who kept street soldiers in check, left power vacuums filled by small cliques led by younger people eager to break away.

Another Target Area mediator, Michael Nash, who speaks regularly with the Mac and LowLife factions, said Reese and Gates were once friends. He said both were likable.

Gunman kills self, 4 young hostages after Fla. standoff

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — After a standoff in Florida of more than 21 hours, officers entered an apartment in which a felon with a gun had barricaded himself with four children and found them all dead, a police chief said.

The hostage situation began when the girlfriend of Gary Wayne Lindsey Jr. left the apartment and told police she had been battered. Lindsey then fired at responding officers, seriously wounding one of them.

Orlando police Chief John Mina said at a press conference just before midnight Monday that Lindsey, 35, was found dead in a closet when officers entered the apartment about 9 p.m.

Mina said officers had tried to offer one of their phones to Lindsey, whose phone had spotty service, and saw that one of the children had been killed. Authorities went in hoping to rescue the others, but found all of them dead from gunshots.

"Our hearts go out to all the families involved," Mina said.

The children with Lindsey ranged in age from 1 to 11. Two of them were Lindsey's and two were the girlfriend's, he said.

A police spokeswoman said Tuesday that the medical examiner, as part of an investigation, would determine when the children were killed.

The girlfriend had called police late Sunday to report she had been beaten and she managed to get out of the apartment.

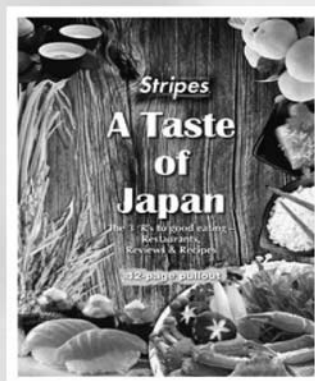
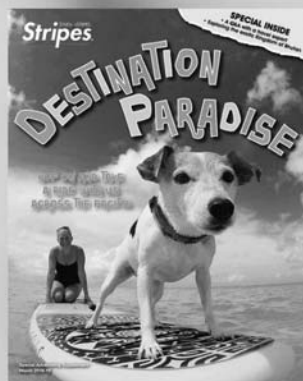
Responding officers were fired upon. Officer Kevin Valencia was shot and was in critical condition but is expected to survive, Mina said Monday. One officer was able to return fire.

Valencia is in his late 20s and has been with the police department since 2016.

Court records show Lindsey had an extensive criminal history involving arson, battery and theft. He was on probation for several charges, including arson.

Officers evacuated other residents of the complex in the middle of the night and blocked off adjacent roads. The residents were allowed to go home early Tuesday.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Bourdain showed the Mideast I know and love

what many of the people on his show also seemed to be saying was, "This is who I am, and I want to share it with you."

Diversity, through Bourdain's eyes, was beautiful and educational. He reminded us

there were still many parts unknown, even when he reported within the United States. It is an approach sorely needed at a time when social media make it easy to filter out The Other and to spew vitriol at those who are different in ways big or small. Bourdain could be comedic but not condescending. Sarcastic, but generally not rude — although he had pointed political views, especially on #MeToo, the Trump presidency and vegetarians. He did not shy away from admitting his own biases and what he did not know.

In the hours after Bourdain's death, my Twitter feed was full of Middle Easterners, Asians and South Americans thanking Bourdain for visiting their countries and depicting their cultures through a lens that was as humble and respectful as it was inquisitive. Bourdain returned to my home city in 2015, this time for CNN's "Parts Unknown." Lebanon's capital, he said, was a place he fell in love with, so much so he considered naming his daughter Beirut. It was a city "where nothing made any damn sense at all — in the best possible way," he wrote. "You should go there. It defies logic. It defies expectations. It is amazing."

plain something about a community, what it provides (or does not), and how certain ingredients come to end all mixed up on a nation's plate. Food is nourishment; it is comfort; it is identity, tradition, history and memory. In preparing a dish for Bourdain,

A job market this tight should deliver bigger raises

business cycle. There's also a possibility that some of the people who dropped out of the labor force during the Great Recession weren't really unemployed, but were just people who decided not to have formal jobs anymore by working under the table or in the black market. If that's true, then using prime-age employment overstates the unemployment rate, meaning that wage growth is even slower than it ought to be at this point in the cycle.

With the U.S. economy strong and unemployment low, why is wage growth so sluggish? Lots of economists and pundits are debating this vexing question. When the labor market gets tight, wages are supposed to rise faster. Instead, median wage growth is slower than it was back in 2016:

The most benign explanation is that there's no mystery here — total compensation, which includes both wages and benefits, may be accelerating:

The first quarter of 2018 did see substantial compensation increases — an annualized rate of almost 4 percent. But one quarter doesn't make a trend. In 2017, compensation growth was running at about 2.5 percent. That's lower than in the early 2000s, even though more prime-age Americans are at work now than then.

Another benign explanation is that despite extremely low unemployment, the economy still isn't really at full employment yet. The Great Recession lasted so long that many workers simply gave up looking for jobs — these people were classified not as unemployed, but as out of the labor force altogether. Some argue that when we take this shadow unemployment into account, the recovery — and the associated wage growth — are right on track. However, even in this picture, 2017 looks a bit weak.

Also, using total compensation instead of wages might not be a good idea, because benefits might be increasing due to factors unrelated to the business cycle, such as the rapid rise in health care costs. If this is the case, then the disparity between now and the early 2000s increases — wage growth in early 2018 has been equal to or lower than the trough of the early 2000s

So perhaps things aren't OK. It's possible that structural forces, unrelated to the business cycle, may be putting long-term downward pressure on wages.

One such factor might be what economists call monopsony, or concentrated market power. Evidence is piling up that employers in the U.S. are able to hold down wages because it's hard for workers to find new jobs at higher pay in the area. If this power is greater now than in past years, it could be restraining wages, as Nobel economist Paul Krugman explains in an excellent blog post. Other structural factors — increased use of noncompetitive agreements, and the continued decline of unions — might be increasing employers' power to avoid raising pay. The idea that employer power is holding down wages is becoming more popular.

But it's also interesting to note that a similar phenomenon is happening in Japan. As observers of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's economic program have noted, the labor market there is even better than in the U.S. Yet wages are even more stagnant. It's perfectly possible that employer power is increasing in Japan as well. But Japan has very different policies and practices on antitrust, noncompetes and unions. So it's curious to see the same macroeconomic mystery in that country as in the U.S. It might be a coincidence, or it might be the result of structural factors

So, too, were you, Anthony Bourdain, and your way of looking at the world. A chef who embraced difference in an increasingly intolerant world. A man who viewed Beirut — and all the many other places too often oversimplified, marginalized and demonized — on their own terms.

Rania Abouzeid is an Australian-Lebanese journalist covering the Middle East and author of "No Turning Back: Life, Loss, And Hope in Wartime Syria."

other than employer power.

International trade will seem like an obvious suspect to many — after the 2000s, the story of cheap Chinese labor holding down wages in the developed world has been burned into many people's brains. However, Chinese labor costs have soared in recent years and no other super-efficient, large-scale, low-wage manufacturing country has emerged. Also, China's effect on rich-world wages was the greatest in the first decade of the new century, when the U.S. had faster wage growth than now.

The retirement of highly paid baby boomers might be more a promising suspect. This especially makes sense in Japan, where raises were traditionally based on seniority. When well-paid people leave the workforce, it tends to drag down the national average, even if entry-level wages are still going up.

Yet another factor might be slow productivity growth. Though wages don't always track productivity, there is a relationship. Productivity often tends to slow down as an economy reaches full employment, since the least productive workers also tend to be the last ones to be hired. But productivity may also be slowing worldwide due to technological stagnation. If so, that's likely to put a drag on wages.

For now, the reasons for slow wage growth will be remain a mystery — in fact, debate as to whether it even constitutes a mystery will continue to be lively. But in the meantime, the best approach is just to address the problems that might be holding down wages. Decreasing employers' power over their workers and increasing economywide productivity growth are worthy goals, no matter where we are in the business cycle.

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University.

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OPINION

With N. Korea, different doesn't mean better

By MICHAEL SCHUMAN

Bloomberg Opinion

I should have been excited as I watched a historic event unfold in Singapore. The summit meeting of Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un held out hope that the last ugly conflict of the Cold War can be brought to a close, alleviating the threat of nuclear war in Asia and possibly opening up the vicious North Korean dictatorship to the world.

For me, the matter is more personal. I lived in South Korea for several years in the 1990s, and I'm forever connected to the peninsula by bonds of family and friends. Seoul, that emblem of prosperity perched near the Demilitarized Zone, is something of a second home.

But it's hard to be optimistic. After more than two decades following Korean affairs, I remind myself that we've been here before. The Pyongyang regime has broken promises to end its nuclear program. Washington has made its share of missteps, too. And while the Trump-Kim meeting was the first by the U.S. and North Korean leaders, it wasn't the first high-level contact. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited Pyongyang in 2000 for talks with Kim's father, Kim Jong Il. Hopes ran high then, too.

So I keep asking myself: Is this time different?

In most ways, it isn't. Trump supporters argue that his approach has been quite unlike that of his predecessors, and that's why the North has come to the table. At its heart, though, Trump's strategy is more or less identical: Offer to trade nukes for economic goodies, and strangle the regime with sanctions until it agrees.

It's not clear, despite Singapore, that this approach worked. The Kims have endured isolation, poverty, even famines, for decades and aren't easily convinced. There are indications that their economy has improved in recent years, despite sanctions. In 2016, North Korean output may have



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump meets North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday in Singapore. Trump supporters argue his new approach is why the North came to the table.

grown at the fastest pace in 17 years, according to South Korea's central bank.

There is one element that's different: the parties at the table. The U.S. hadn't dealt with Kim Jong Un on the nuclear issue, and while we don't really know what persuaded him to negotiate, we can't assume that he has the same motivations as his father. Some North Korea watchers are convinced the younger Kim truly wants to develop his economy and bring the country in from the cold, and he can't do that without the lifting of sanctions and U.S. support.

Then there's the Trump. He's different, too, but not in the way most people think. It's not his "fire and fury" threats and "maximum pressure" campaign that distinguish him from his predecessors. It's his break

with Washington's foreign policy traditions. As we witnessed most obviously at the G-7 summit in Canada, Trump has scant regard for allies, past agreements or international commitments. More, he seems willing to toss into the shredder the foreign policy guidebook Washington has followed since President Harry Truman.

That might make Trump willing to do what no other president in the modern period would to get a deal with Kim, and that may open opportunities with Pyongyang the U.S. has never had. At a press briefing Monday evening in Singapore, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wouldn't say whether the U.S. would offer to pull troops out of South Korea — a long-standing North Korean demand — as part of a nuclear deal.

Trump, in his post-summit comments Tuesday, acknowledged he wants to bring the troops home, but said it wasn't part of the equation at the moment.

Still, the fact that this is even being discussed is remarkable. No previous president would have considered so great a deviation from Washington's global security policy.

Kim may have sensed that desire to break with past practice, and that alone may have made negotiations worth a shot from his standpoint. Maybe the North Korean leader can extract concessions that other presidents wouldn't have entertained.

In Trump's quest for "wins," he could be too quick to discard allies like South Korea — and in the process, unravel the security order that has preserved American dominance in Asia since the end of World War II. Kim (and his backer, Chinese President Xi Jinping) would love to push the U.S. out of the Korean Peninsula and weaken its standing in East Asia.

That would leave the door wide open for China to march in. Trump, whether through short-sighted politicking, dearth of knowledge or simple lack of interest, could make a deal that might resolve one security problem while creating a potentially bigger one.

We'll see. Handshakes and smiles aside, it's far from clear where the relationship is heading. The joint document signed Tuesday by Trump and Kim is a masterpiece of diplomatic vagueness that appears to leave undone the hard work of reaching a real, verifiable agreement to end North Korea's nuclear program.

For seven decades, Washington has equated its own interests with the preservation of a U.S. global economic and security system. Trump does not. That may be why this time with North Korea is different. But I'm not sure it's a cause for hope.

Michael Schuman is a journalist based in Beijing and author of "Confucius: And the World He Created."

Strong leaders define peninsula's power realities

By ARTHUR I. CYR

Special to Stars and Stripes

History encourages persistence, despite setbacks, and the Korean Peninsula is an especially important example. The summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un underscores that. The meeting has been primarily symbolic, but may lead to diplomatic relations, at least.

Regarding modern Korea history, two leaders stand out for strong defining roles — President Harry Truman of the U.S. and Premier Josef Stalin of the Soviet Union. On June 25, 1950, North Korea launched a surprise military invasion of South Korea.

Truman reacted quickly, deciding to support the United Nations military effort to oppose the invasion. For almost three years, the U.S. led the coalition that saved South Korea.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, state archives became available. They confirm Stalin was a prime mover of the invasion.

The Korean War was enormously costly. Along with the communist victory in China, the war transformed the Cold War from a Europe-focused conflict to a global one.

President Dwight Eisenhower succeeded Truman and achieved the armistice ending the war. He also maintained sustained



AHN YOUNG-IL/AP

People watch a TV screen showing President Donald Trump meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore during a news program at Seoul Railway Station in South Korea on Tuesday.

practical policy focus on South Korea, and initiated detailed comprehensive development work.

Defense Secretary Charles Wilson, previously president of General Motors, received a broad mandate. Peter Drucker had written a book critical of GM management, which irritated other executives but impressed Wilson, who recruited Drucker to work on education.

The success of South Korea today reflects that strong American helping hand. Eisenhower's initiative highlights not only the costs of war but also the difficulty of handling life after war, and the need for comprehensive, thorough planning.

South Korea has repaid this vital support in various ways. In 2001, President Kim Dae-jung made a point of being among the first heads of government to visit newly inaugurated President George W. Bush.

Throughout the long, costly Vietnam War, South Korea maintained approximately 50,000 troops in that country to fight beside the South Vietnamese and American forces, plus contingents from Australia and New Zealand. The South Korean troops were far from home in Southeast Asia because of a very powerful public as well as government commitment to the American alliance. That in turn provides a firm foundation for long-term diplomatic cooperation and more informal but comprehensive economic, educational and technical interchange. The human dimension is especially important in South Korea-U.S. relations.

The historical background to current

stable representative government in South Korea is a story of vital importance to Americans as well as Koreans. General Park Chung-hee was part of a military coup that seized control of the country in 1961. He solidified personal control of the government and ruled with an iron fist. In 1979, his intelligence chief assassinated him.

Park's harsh leadership had generated increasingly strong if uncertain currents of opposition. Two more generals, Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, succeeded him as president but growing pressure for democracy proved unstoppable.

The capstone of democratic transition was the 1998 election of Kim Dae-jung. Earlier, the Park dictatorship had imprisoned him. On another occasion, South Korean agents kidnapped him and were planning to kill him. CIA official Donald Gregg saved his life.

Kim Dae-jung, with Eisenhower and Truman and many other Koreans and Americans, played a vital role in the evolution of South Korea. Current Presidents Trump and Moon Jae-in, of South Korea, have the opportunity to build on this remarkable legacy.

Meanwhile, Stalin's world is gone. Kim Jong Un realizes that.

Arthur I. Cyr is Clausen Distinguished Professor at Carthage College and author of "After the Cold War."

WORLD



SAM MEDNICK/AP

A health worker checks people's temperatures at the airport in Kinshasa, Congo, on June 2. A vaccine has been dispatched to front line health workers in an attempt to combat the Ebola virus.

Test of Ebola vaccine raises hopes, doubts

By SAM MEDNICK
AND LAURAN NEERGARD
Associated Press

MBANDAKA, Congo — Irene Mboyo Mola spent 11 days caring for her husband as he died of Ebola in a hospital where she said nurses were too scared to get close. She helped him to the bathroom, picked up his feverish body when he lost his balance and reinserted an IV that fell out of his bleeding arm.

"He told me all he could see was death," recalled Mola, a 30-year-old mother of six.

That close contact put Mola at high risk of getting a disease that has no cure and kills about half of those infected. But now, as Congo battles the most serious Ebola outbreak since the devastating 2014 epidemic in West Africa, health workers have something new to offer: a vaccine.

With thousands of doses dispatched to front-line health workers, the world is watching to see if a promising but still experimental vaccine might help stop this terrifying disease faster than traditional medicines doctors have tried since Ebola was identified 40 years ago.

Even if the vaccine helps, there are serious hurdles. The shots must be transported deep into forests with few paved roads without it spoiling in the heat. Health workers have to identify and track down anyone who's had contact with a sick person. Hardest of all, they must persuade a scared and wary population that shots pushed by foreigners could save their lives.

"Communities themselves must be at the center of the response if the activities are going to be effective," said Jonathan Polonsky, a surveillance coordinator in Mbandaka, a city of more than 1 million in northwestern Congo.

Mola's six children have all been vaccinated. But she refused, telling government social workers and WHO workers that she didn't believe her husband died from Ebola. She said the hospital never showed her records confirming

he'd tested positive for the virus. There's no guarantee the long-sought vaccine will help stop the outbreak. But Congo's health ministry and the WHO rushed in 7,500 doses, created by the Public Health Agency of Canada and owned by Merck.

It was deemed the best option because the vaccine was found highly promising in testing a few years ago, when the epidemic in West Africa, which killed more than 11,000 people between 2014 and 2016, was starting to wane.

The plan: what's called "ring vaccination," to find and vaccinate everyone who's had direct contact with a sick person — the first "ring" — and then contacts of those people, too, to break the chain of infection.

Congo's current outbreak has killed 14 people so far, according to the country's Ministry of Health. There have been 38 confirmed infections.

So far more than 2,000 people, including front-line health workers, have been vaccinated in Mbandaka and the rural villages of Bikoro and Iboko where confirmed cases have been found, says the Ministry of Health.

Health experts say the next two weeks will be critical in determining whether the outbreak will be brought under control. The WHO is now shifting efforts to more remote areas to contain the outbreak. The organization has predicted there could be up to 300 cases of Ebola in the coming months.

Next year, Merck plans to seek approval of the vaccine from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, based on previous studies of the shots. While the vaccine isn't being formally studied in the current Congo outbreak, regulatory authorities would want to know if unforeseen side effects crop up.

In West Africa, a large study is underway that compares the Merck shot and a second vaccine candidate made by Janssen Pharmaceutics to determine best vaccination strategies and track how long protection lasts.

Report: Dubai real estate is money-laundering haven

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — War profiteers, terrorism financiers and drug traffickers sanctioned by the U.S. in recent years have used Dubai's real estate market as a haven for their assets, a new report released Tuesday alleges.

The report by the Washington-based Center for Advanced Defense Studies, relying on leaked property data from the city-state, offers evidence to support the long-whispered rumors about Dubai's real estate boom. It identifies some \$100 million in suspicious purchases of apartments and villas across the city of skyscrapers in the United Arab Emirates, where foreign ownership fuels construction that now outpaces local demand.

The government-run Dubai Media Office said it could not comment on the report.

For its part, the center known by the acronym C4ADS said Dubai has a "high-end luxury real estate market and lax regulatory environment prizing secrecy and anonymity above all else." That comes as the U.S. already warns that Dubai's economic free zones and trade in gold and diamonds pose a risk.

"The permissive nature of this environment has global security implications far beyond the sands of the UAE," the center said in its report. "In an interconnected global economy with low barriers impeding the movement of funds, a single point of weakness in the regulatory system can empower and enable a range of global illicit actors."

The properties in question include million-dollar villas on the fronds of the man-made Palm Jumeirah archipelago and an apartment in the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. Others appear to be one-bedroom apartments in more affordable neighborhoods in Dubai, the UAE's biggest city.

Among the highest-profile in-



KAMRAN JEBRELLI/AP

Laborers work at a construction site at the Palm Jumeirah in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2015. A new report describes Dubai's real estate market as a haven for criminal enterprises.

dividuals named in the report is Rami Makhlof, a cousin of embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad and one of that country's wealthiest businessmen. The U.S. has sanctioned Makhlof, who owns the large mobile phone carrier Syriatel, for using "intimidation and his close ties to the Assad regime to obtain improper financial advantages at the expense of ordinary Syrians."

Makhlof and his brother, also sanctioned by the U.S., own real estate on the Palm Jumeirah, according to the report. They also have ties to two UAE-based free-zone companies.

The UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms led from oil-rich Abu Dhabi, has opposed Assad in his country's years-long war.

The UAE also opposes Hezbollah, the Lebanese political party and militia group backed by Iran. However, C4ADS' report identified at least one property directly linked to Lebanese businessman Kamel and Issam Amhaz, who the U.S. sanctioned in 2014 for helping Hezbollah "covertly purchase sophisticated electronics" for military drones. The report

identified another nearly \$70 million in Dubai properties owned by two other shareholders in Amhaz's sanctioned firms.

The emirate's decision in 2002 to allow foreign ownership of so-called "freehold" properties drew a rapid construction boom that attracted developers from across the world, including President Donald Trump, whose name is on two golf course projects and villas.

Unlike in the U.S., where property records are public, Dubai does not offer an accessible database of all its transactions, instead requiring specific details only in individual buyers and sellers would have. C4ADS said it relied in part on "private UAE data compiled by real estate and property professionals" offered by a confidential source for its reporting.

The U.S. State Department as recently as this year issued a warning about money laundering in the UAE in its annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, noting the country's money exchange shops can allow for "bulk cash smuggling."

Paris bistros seeking 'cultural' status

Associated Press

PARIS — Owners of the bistros and terrace cafes that are integral to the Paris way of life want the indescribable appeal of their establishments to be recognized as both of global value and endangered.

They have launched a campaign to be named by the United Nations' cultural agency as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding." UNESCO has given that status to traditions as varied as a Mongolian camel-coaxing ritual, Irani-

an sailboat building and the sung prayers of indigenous Peruvians.

Members of a bistro owners association gathered Monday at Le Mesturet in central Paris. With its zinc counter, wooden tables and wine bottles for decoration, it is typical of the kind of establishment people were relaxing outside of when extremists shot at them on Nov. 13, 2015.

The chefs and business owners said the bistros of Paris play a key role in bringing people of all origins, religions, social classes and age together in a cheap and

welcoming place to drink coffee or share a meal.

But the traditional bistro also is threatened by increasing rents and competition, and their number has dropped by half in the past 20 years, the owners argued.

"Our most beautiful love and friendship stories were often born in bistros and on terraces," Le Mesturet owner Alain Fontaine, the association's president, said.

The association hopes to see its candidacy examined by UNESCO next year. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo supports the initiative.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

State to issue licenses that are gender-neutral

ME AUGUSTA — The Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles is going to offer the option of a gender-neutral designation on driver licenses and identification cards.

The agency said the process will involve filling out a form called a "gender designation form." The BMV says it will issue a sticker for the license or ID card that says, "Gender has been changed to X — Non-binary."

The agency said a system upgrade will allow it to phase out the sticker by July 2019. The "X" then will be on the card.

Police: Man tried to steal red light camera

RI PROVIDENCE — Providence police said a man who tried to steal a red light camera told officers he had a right to the device because it was paid for by taxpayers' money.

The Providence Journal reported that officers spotted Andrew Baker, 57, taking apart a red light camera pole along with its wiring when they responded to a call about a suspicious person Sunday afternoon.

Authorities said another man approached officers with a shopping cart that had a red light camera in it. That man told police Baker and another individual had pushed the equipment away from the area before leaving.

Baker was arrested and charged with larceny.

Driver crashes into doughnut store barrier

WA AUBURN — A pickup plowed into a concrete barrier in front of a doughnut shop in Auburn, barely missing two customers as they were entering the store.

Officers responded to the scene at the Donut Star shop Friday morning. KOMO reported the driver was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Surveillance video shows the large, white truck careening into a barrier in front of the store as a man and a woman were entering. Debris from the impact shattered the glass on the front door of the business.

There were no injuries.

2 police trainees arrested after fight

NC GREENVILLE — Two police trainees were arrested after a roadside fight in North Carolina.

Greenville Police Department spokeswoman Kristen Hunter said in a news release that two people enrolled in the Basic Law Enforcement Training academy were arrested late Saturday night.

Hunter said Christian Thomas Russell, 38, was charged with assault. Brittany Johanna Barnett, 28, was charged with resisting arrest, public intoxication and being disruptive.

A total of four people were arrested in the fight.

THE CENSUS

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The minimum number of cars that had windows shot out with an airsoft or BB gun in May and earlier this month in California. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office said early Saturday a deputy spotted a vehicle matching the description of a vehicle believed connected to incidents in Santa Maria and Orcutt. Deputies found a BB gun in the car, which was occupied by three males — ages 19, 18 and 16. The case remains under investigation.



WILLIAM J. KOLE/AP

Feeding the troops

A volunteer with an American colonist re-enactors group carries a pizza in Pawtuxet Village in Warwick, R.I., on Sunday during annual Gaspee Days celebrations. A new exhibit at the state archives in Providence highlights Rhode Island's role in helping spark the American Revolution when colonists burned a British ship, the HMS Gaspee, in June 1772. A smaller model of a ship was burned Sunday in Warwick.

The Pitt County Sheriff's Office and the North Carolina Highway Patrol are investigating the fight. Russell and Barnett have been suspended without pay.

Police: Road rage turns into smelly situation

PA ALLENTOWN — Police said one man defecated onto another man during a road rage episode in Pennsylvania.

Authorities said a New Tripoli man got into an argument with another man about 8:45 a.m. Friday and defecated onto the victim. The altercation happened in Heidelberg Township, about 17 miles north of Allentown.

The suspect was charged with harassment.

Reward offered after nesting trees are cut

AK KENAI — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for information on the destruction of three trees that were home to nesting bald eagles on

the Kenai Peninsula.

Kenai radio station KSRM reported the trees were cut around Anchor Point. An aerial survey spotted the felled trees.

The trees were within a half-mile of each other and were the only trees cut in the area.

The Fish and Wildlife is offering the reward to identify who cut the trees.

Bounty hunters accused of impersonating police

ID CALDWELL — Two bounty hunters were arrested in western Idaho for impersonating police, though a lawyer representing one of the men said they were just doing their jobs.

Caldwell police arrested Kevin Ratigan and David Manery on June 6 for chasing down a man on behalf of Viper Bail Bonds in Nampa.

Police said they were acting as bail enforcement agents dressed in tactical gear, but they didn't have probable cause to detain the man because there was no warrant out for his arrest.

The man was released from

custody unharmed and without being charged with any crime.

Ratigan's attorney said no laws were violated because the state has no regulations on how they can recapture people who have skipped out on their bail bonds.

Town's Gothic jail has role in horror movie

LA DERIDDER — Digital magic will make a century-old Gothic jail in west Louisiana the setting for a Hollywood horror movie filmed across the state in New Orleans.

Beauregard Parish Tourist Commission Director Lori Darbonne told The American Press that the "Gothic Hanging Jail" in DeRidder will set the tone for "Eli," starring Max Martin.

Paramount Pictures' Paramount Players division, working with MTV, plans a January release for the movie about a boy being treated for a rare disease at a clinic in a haunted prison.

DeRidder's jail was the first item to pop up when the production team searched online for the word "gothic," Darbonne said.

DeRidder's jail, built in 1914 in what's called the Collegiate Gothic style, became known as the "Hanging Jail" in the 1950s, after a song was written about the execution of two convicted murderers in 1928. It opened for tours in November 2016.

Restaurant owner faces charges for recordings

MA BROOKLINE — The owner of a Boston-area restaurant already facing child rape charges faces new charges of secretly video recording customers using the bathroom in his establishment.

Tze Chung, owner of Tsam China in Brookline, was held on \$7,500 bail Friday after not-guilty pleas to 15 counts of illegal recording were entered on his behalf. He was arrested Thursday.

Court records show the 63-year-old Weston man was already free on \$100,000 bail after pleading not guilty last month to charges including child rape for allegedly sexually assaulting a girl known to him.

From wire reports

FACES

'Grease' is the word that inspired these actors

By LUAINÉ LEE/Tribune News Service

The classic movie musical "Grease" turns 40 years old and is ready for a new generation. The teens at Rydell High are still crooning about prom night, dropping out of beauty school and heating up the dance floor with "You're the One That I Want." Expectations were small when the flick was released in 1978. Based on a Broadway musical, the film went on to become the highest grossing musical of the 20th century, though it cost Paramount a measly \$6 million to make. It turns out "Grease" was more than a hit movie. To many actors who went on to find their own fame, it was an inspiration.



Rob Morrow ("Numb3rs," "Bilions") says it changed his life. "I went to the movie 'Grease' and had never thought about acting. It never occurred to me," he says. "I knew I'd never be the kind of person that would have a traditional job in that I went to the same place and did basically the same thing for a long time. I was conscious of that, but I watched John Travolta, and there was something about the joy, the fun he seemed to be having — and I knew he was making a living — and I thought, 'That's for me.'"

Marilu Henner ("Taxi," "Brooklyn Nine-Nine") got her start with the show. "When I was in high school, a friend of mine wrote a show and said, 'We're going to perform this ... and I want you to be a part of it. It's called 'Grease.''" So I did the first original production of "Grease" ever. When the first national company came up, I got the part!

For Omar Epps ("House," "Resurrection"), the connection came early. "I did a school play in the sixth grade, and we did 'Grease,' and I had a really small role. But that high, that connection with the crowd, that was it! I think that was when I was bit by the bug."

Vanessa Hudgens ("High School Mus-

ical") went on to play Rizzo in Fox's live version of the show. "I honestly can't remember the first time I saw 'Grease,'" she says. "I feel like 'Grease' has just always been a part of my life. It's always been on in my house. I can't remember my life before 'Grease,' almost."

Sutton Foster ("Bunheads," "Younger") also owes her start to "Grease." "I lived at home with my parents. I waited tables — was sort of lost. Then I flew up to New York to visit my brother who was working on a Broadway show. And there were several open-calls up there, and my mom encouraged me to audition," she says.

"And my brother and his girlfriend at the time helped me prepare. And I got cast in a national tour of 'Grease.' And four days later was flown to San Francisco and at 19, I was traveling around the country in a national tour! I feel that life had helped me to thrive. I was in the ensemble. I'm a gypsy, an ensemble girl, who crawled her way to the top. I did 'Grease' for a year and a half, and my Broadway debut was with 'Grease.'"

Michael Rosenbaum ("Smallville," "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2") was too timid to try acting at first. "I was taking drama classes, but I was still

nervous and shy and my teacher said — I was a senior — she said, 'Listen, you can't take Drama 4 unless you audition for a play.' I said, 'Awwwww.' To me it (had been) an easy A. You just got up there and read some plays. Drama's an easy A. I said, 'OK, and auditioned for 'Grease.' Doesn't every actor audition for 'Grease'? I got the part of Vince Fontaine," he says.

"Hey, hey this is the main brain, Vince Fontaine, spin the sacks of wax here at the house of wax, WAXX." I still remember because I was so nervous. The next morning I was walking down the hallway and a couple of the popular kids — I remember this popular kid, Chris Prow, said, 'Hey, you're pretty funny.' So for me, not being me, on stage I could be ... anything I wanted to do on stage, I could do. I didn't feel like I was being judged. It was MY time."

Julianne Hough ("Dancing with the Stars," "Safe Haven") went on to play Sandy in Fox's live version of "Grease."

"I put the production on in my basement when I was, like, 5 years old," she says. "I was Sandy, and then, during the dance scene, I turned into Cha-Cha, and then I went back to Sandy."

George R.R. Martin teases prequel series

The newly ordered "Game of Thrones" prequel pilot won't affect "Winds of Winter" that book George R.R. Martin is definitely going to finish.

HBO greenlit a spinoff pilot from Martin and writer Jane Goldman last week, and the genre-changing author is giving a few hints about what the series could be.

"Yes, this is a prequel, not a sequel. None of the characters or actors from GAME OF THRONES will appear in the new show. All of the successor shows we've been developing have been prequels, as I have mentioned before," Martin wrote on his website.

"This one really puts the PRE in prequel, since it is set not ninety years before GAME OF THRONES (like Dunk & Egg), or a few hundred years, but rather ten thousand years (well, assuming the oral histories of the First Men are accurate, but there are maesters at the Citadel who insist it has only been half that long)."

Martin also suggested the show be called "The Long Night," which certainly hints at the importance of the White Walkers. The official headline for the pilot, released by HBO, describes the show as chronicling "the world's descent from the golden Age of Heroes into its darkest hour. And only one thing is for sure: from the horrifying secrets of Westeros' history to the true origin of the white walkers, the mysteries of the East to the Starks of legend ... it's not the story we think we know."

Other news

■ CBS's Sunday telecast of the 72nd annual **Tony Awards** scored an audience of 6.3 million viewers, a 4.5 percent rise over last year, according to Nielsen data. The audience figure is a slight rebound from the 2017 ceremony, which was watched by 6.05 million viewers — the Tonys' smallest TV audience since 2012. In 2016, when the musical "Hamilton" swept the awards, the program scored 8.7 million viewers.

■ **Eddie Vedder's** support of the Chicago Cubs remains strong. The Pearl Jam frontman's new 7-inch vinyl single will be given out to those who buy tickets to the July 6 Cubs-Reds game at Wrigley Field. Pressed on blue and red vinyl, the record features Vedder's 2007 Cubs song "All the Way." The flip side features fan Steve Goodman's 1984 tribute "Go Cubs, Go." One record will be given out with each ticket purchased.

■ A grand jury in Virginia has indicted actress and activist **Rose McGowan** on one felony count of cocaine possession. News outlets report a Loudoun County grand jury handed down the indictment Monday. Charging documents say cocaine was found in a wallet McGowan left behind on a plane last year. McGowan has maintained the cocaine isn't hers.

■ Prize-winning author **Laurie R. King** is writing a memoir about surviving rape. Viking Children's Books announced Monday that the book is called "Shout" and comes out in March 2019. Anderson is best known for the acclaimed young adult novel "Speak," a groundbreaking work about sexual assault. "Speak" came out in 1999 and has sold more than 8 million copies.

Stockard Channing, from left, John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John and Jeff Conaway co-starred in the hit musical "Grease," celebrating its 40th birthday on Saturday.

TNS

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

White House economic adviser has heart attack

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Larry Kudlow, a prominent economic commentator who joined the Trump administration this year as the president's top economic adviser, has suffered a "very mild" heart attack, the White House said Monday night.

Kudlow was being treated at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters in Singapore. She said Kudlow was in good condition and "doing well."

Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council, had joined President Donald Trump last week in Canada for the meeting of the Group of Seven world leaders.

Minutes before Trump met with North Korea's Kim Jong Un in Singapore, the president tweeted, "Our Great Larry Kudlow, who has been working so hard on trade and the economy, has just suffered a heart attack."

Kudlow appeared Sunday on CNN to back up Trump's complaint that he had been blindsided by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's criticism of his tariff threats at a news conference that followed the G-7 meeting in Canada. The meeting, which had been shadowed by the Trump administration's escalation of rhetoric on trade and tariffs, splintered shortly after the president left Quebec and tweeted he was pulling back his approval of a joint G-7 statement.

Trump's choice of Kudlow to be



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Senior White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow had a "very mild" heart attack, officials said Monday night.

his top economic aide elevated the influence of a longtime fixture on the business news network CNBC. He previously served in the Reagan administration and emerged as a leading evangelist for tax cuts and smaller government.

The famously pinstripe-suited Kudlow succeeded Gary Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs executive who left the post in a dispute over Trump's decision to impose tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

With Trump's tax cuts already being implemented, Kudlow has been advising a president who pushed to tax foreign imports — a policy Kudlow personally opposes. Kudlow said he is "in accord" with Trump's agenda and his team at the White House would help implement the policies set by the president.

After working in President Ronald Reagan's administration, Kudlow moved to Wall Street and, though he never completed a master's program in economics and policy at Princeton University, served as chief economist at Bear Stearns. He left that position in the early 1990s to treat an addiction to alcohol and drugs.

Amid growing pressure, Seattle to repeal tax on large companies

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Amazon balked and Seattle is backing down.

City leaders said they plan to repeal a tax on large companies such as Amazon and Starbucks as they face mounting pressure from businesses, an about-face just a month after unanimously approving the measure to help pay for efforts to combat a growing homelessness crisis.

The quick surrender showed the power of Amazon to help rally opposition and aggressively push back on taxes at all levels of government, even in its affluent home city where the income gap is ever widening and lower-income workers are being priced out of housing. It has resulted in one of the highest homelessness rates in the U.S.

Amazon and other businesses had sharply criticized the tax, and the online retailer even temporarily halted construction planning on a new high-rise building near its Seattle headquarters in protest.

Mayor Jenny Durkan and seven of nine City Council members said Monday they worked with a range of groups to pass a measure last month that would strike a balance between protecting jobs and supporting affordable housing.

But a coalition of businesses is working to get a referendum on the November ballot to overturn the tax.

In a statement, Durkan and the council members said "it is clear that the ordinance will lead to a prolonged, expensive political fight over the next five months that will do nothing to tackle our urgent housing and homelessness crisis."

They said they would move for-

ward to repeal the so-called head tax. A special council meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, where a vote was expected. They didn't provide a backup funding plan.

It marks the latest Amazon move against city, state and national taxes.

The company recently said it would block Australians from purchases on its international websites after the nation planned to impose a 10 percent consumption tax on online retailers for goods shipped to Australia.

The tax debate comes as 20 cities vie to lure the company's second headquarters and as it expands its workforce in Boston and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Cities have offered lavish tax breaks and incentives to lure the company and its promise of adding tens of thousands of high-paying jobs. Critics have said it is wrong for a profitable company to push for public money, especially considering the added costs to infrastructure and services the new headquarters would bring.

Seattle's tax would charge companies about \$275 per full-time worker each year and raise roughly \$48 million a year for affordable

housing and homeless services. It would target businesses making at least \$20 million in gross revenue and take effect in January.

The liberal city spent \$68 million on homelessness in 2017 and plans to spend \$78 million this year. Just days after Durkan signed the ordinance into law, the No Tax On Jobs campaign, a coalition of businesses, announced it would gather signatures for a repeal referendum.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 13)	\$1.2095
Dollar buys (June 13)	69.8258
British pound (June 13)	\$1.37
Japanese yen (June 13)	107.00
South Korean won (June 13)	1,047.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3777
Britain (Pound)	1.3357
Canada (Dollar)	1.2999
China (Yuan)	6.4055
Denmark (Krone)	6.3201
Egypt (Pound)	17.8603
Euro	1.1788/0.8483
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.78471
Hungary (Forint)	271.37
Israel (Shekel)	3.5804
Japan (Yen)	110.23
Kuwait (Dinar)	3.021
Norway (Krone)	8.0141
Philippines (Peso)	53.95
Poland (Zloty)	3.63
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7514
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3347
So. Korea (Won)	1,077.82
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8945
Thailand (Baht)	32.09
Turkey (Lira)	4.5519

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federals funds market rate	0.69
3-month bill	1.91
30-year bond	3.09

MARKET WATCH

June 11, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	5.78
	25,322.31
Nasdaq composite	14.41
	7,659.92
Standard & Poor's 500	2.97
	2,782.00
Russell 2000	2.19
	1,674.68

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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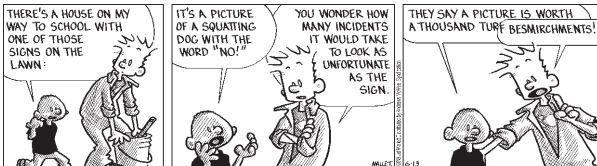
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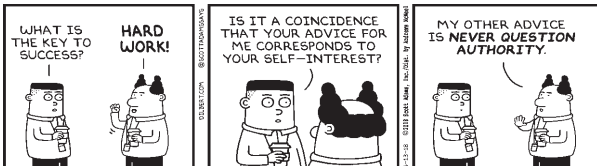
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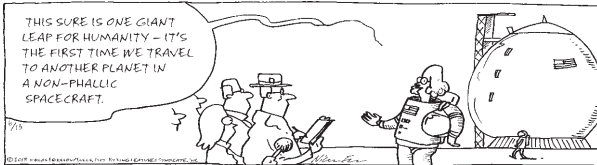
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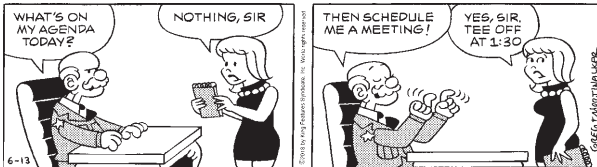
Candorville



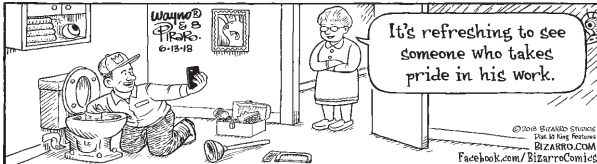
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
		21						22				
23	24	25		26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
		41			42		43		44			
45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55					56		
57					58					59		

ACROSS

- 1 Prosperous period
- 5 Scooted
- 8 Gulf War missile
- 12 Ranch measure
- 13 Swiss canton
- 14 Drive — window
- 15 Innocent-looking
- 17 Painter Magritte
- 18 Sermon
- 19 "Citizen Kane" inspiration
- 21 Wee bit
- 22 Within (Pref.) network
- 26 Up-to-date
- 28 British nobles
- 31 London neighborhood
- 33 "Dig in!"
- 35 Simple
- 36 Used a broom
- 38 Yank's foe
- 40 Notable time
- 41 500 sheets
- 43 "The Simpsons" barkeep
- 45 Third-largest island
- 47 Imitate
- 51 New York canal
- 52 Square-ended cigars
- 54 Computer brand

DOWN

- 55 Owns
- 56 Let fall
- 57 Church service
- 58 Busy insect
- 59 Spuds' buds
- 16 — Bator
- 20 Finale
- 23 Donkey
- 24 Fiddle stick
- 25 Small red fruits
- 27 Armed conflict
- 29 Goof up
- 30 Yacht spot
- 32 Starting bids
- 34 Violent storm
- 37 — kwon do
- 39 Sow's mate
- 42 Coffee flavor
- 44 Wear down
- 45 Smile broadly
- 46 Killer whale
- 48 Golfer McIlroy
- 49 Oklahoma tribe
- 50 Recipe amts.
- 53 Solo of "Star Wars"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	I	N	T	O	R	B	I	C	E	S
O	D	O	R	P	A	R	N	A	R	C
U	L	T	I	M	A	T	A	A	R	I
R	Y	E		E	R	S		E	M	B
			S	S	T		O	N	O	
S	I	N	U	S		S	P	A	R	T
A	R	A	B		O	A	T		A	K
D	E	N	S	I	T		S	T	O	R
			T	O	T		M	A		
S	C	O	R	N		G	A	L		G
A	L	M	A		F	R	I	T	T	A
M	O	A	T		R	O	N		H	I
E	T	N	A		A	G	E		E	N

6-13

CRYPTOQUIP

KMLX ML MLAP BML UJXTA
KQQP WBFJS BQ EL
JXWBTAALP UQF BML
SATWBLF ETWL ML MTP
BML ATWB ATBM

Yesterday's Cryptquip: YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME ATTEMPTING TO WORK ANY ALGEBRA PROBLEMS. I HAVE A FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals N


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Automotive 140

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Washington at Connecticut
Thursday's game
Indiana at Atlanta

MLB

Cubs rally in 11th, move back into first

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Anthony Rizzo turned on the power with a long home run down the right-field line in the 11th inning. Jason Heyward delivered a tying single in the eighth against one of the toughest relievers in baseball.

The Chicago Cubs dented the Milwaukee Brewers' normally lights-out bullpen to return to first place in the NL Central.

Rizzo's shot opened the scoring in a five-run 11th, and Heyward drove in three runs during a 7-2 victory that gave the Cubs a half-game lead in the division.

"Today we piled on late. You could see what we're capable of doing," manager Joe Maddon said.

Rizzo hit a fastball down the middle from Matt Albers (3-2) for a towering shot that snapped a 2-all tie. The Cubs scored four more runs in the inning with two outs, including a two-run double by Heyward.

Trading 2-1 most of the night, the Cubs scored six times in the last four innings against the Brewers' formidable bullpen. They won their seventh straight over Milwaukee.

It would be nice to get (the offense) back together, whether it's earlier in the game with runners in scoring position ... take some heat off the bullpen and not have to play extra innings," Maddon said.

Cubs relievers tossed five scoreless innings, with Randy Rosario (3-0) retiring all six batters he faced for the win.

"They do all the little things, they don't make mistakes," Brewers outfielder Ryan Braun said. "We still have to get better at some of those things I think to consistently play as good of baseball as they do."

After being held to one run by Brewers starter Junior Guerra, the Cubs broke through in the eighth against a bullpen with a league-best 2.53 ERA. The left-handed-hitting Heyward, who had three hits, tied the game at 2-2 with a two-run single to right off lefty reliever Josh Hader.

Left-handed hitters were 2-for-36 against Hader before Heyward's single.

Albers allowed five runs and three hits, leaving with two outs in the 11th. His ERA ballooned from .92 to 3.45.

He said he was expecting Rizzo to swing at the first pitch, but his fastball didn't sail up and in as planned.

"I just didn't quite get it to the spot I wanted to. That's pretty much the story of my outing there just not executing," Albers said.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	22	.672	
New York	42	19	.689	—
Tampa Bay	30	35	.462	14 1/2
Toronto	30	36	.455	14 1/2
Baltimore	19	48	.292	25
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	35	29	.547	—
Detroit	31	36	.463	5 1/2
Minnesota	28	34	.452	6
Chicago	22	42	.344	13
Kansas City	22	44	.333	14
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	42	24	.636	—
Houston	42	25	.627	1/2
Los Angeles	37	30	.552	5 1/2
Oakland	34	32	.515	8
Texas	27	41	.397	16

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	37	28	.569	—
Washington	36	27	.571	—
Philadelphia	33	30	.524	3
St. Louis	30	34	.462	7 1/2
Miami	24	42	.364	13 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	38	25	.603	—
Milwaukee	39	27	.591	1/2
St. Louis	31	38	.447	8 1/2
Pittsburgh	32	34	.485	7 1/2
Cincinnati	22	43	.348	16 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	36	29	.554	—
Los Angeles	33	32	.508	1 1/2
San Francisco	33	33	.500	3 1/2
Colorado	33	32	.500	3 1/2
San Diego	31	37	.456	6 1/2

Monday's Games
Boston 2, Baltimore 6, 12 innings
Seattle 5, L.A. Angels 3
Cleveland 4, Chicago White Sox 0
Miami 7, San Francisco 5
Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 2, 11 in-

Tuesday's Games
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees
Minnesota at Detroit
Toronto at Tampa Bay
Cleveland at Kansas City
Houston at Oakland
L.A. Angels at Seattle
Colorado at Philadelphia
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta
San Diego at Milwaukee
San Diego at St. Louis
Pittsburgh at Arizona

Wednesday's Games
Toronto (Happ 8-3) at Tampa Bay
Boston (Sale 5-4) at Baltimore (Cashner 7-3)
L.A. Angels (Richards 4-4) at Seattle (Gonzalez 7-3)
Washington (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (Gray 4-4)
Minnesota (Bauer 7-5) at Detroit (Boyd 4-4)
Milwaukee (Sexton 5-4) at Chicago White Sox (Covey 2-1)
Cincinnati (Mahle 4-6) at Kansas City (Hammel 2-6)
Houston (Cole 7-1) at Oakland (Blackburn 1-0)
Texas (Hamel 3-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Mead 4-4)
N.Y. Mets (deGrom 4-1) at Atlanta (Soroka 4-4)
Chicago Cubs (Montgomery 2-1) at Milwaukee (Chazin 5-1)
Pittsburgh (Tallent 3-5) at Arizona (Greinke 4-5)
Colorado (Anderson 3-1) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 4-5)
Cincinnati (Suarez 2-4) at Miami (Smith 5-6)
San Diego (Lander 2-4) at St. Louis (Wendel 5-5)

Thursday's Games
Toronto (Happ 8-3) at Tampa Bay
Boston (Sale 5-4) at Baltimore (Cashner 7-3)
L.A. Angels (Richards 4-4) at Seattle (Gonzalez 7-3)
Washington (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (Gray 4-4)
Minnesota (Bauer 7-5) at Detroit (Boyd 4-4)
Milwaukee (Sexton 5-4) at Chicago White Sox (Covey 2-1)
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Colorado (Anderson 3-1) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 4-5)
Cincinnati (Suarez 2-4) at Miami (Smith 5-6)
San Diego (Lander 2-4) at St. Louis (Wendel 5-5)

Friday's Games
Toronto (Happ 8-3) at Tampa Bay
Boston (Sale 5-4) at Baltimore (Cashner 7-3)
L.A. Angels (Richards 4-4) at Seattle (Gonzalez 7-3)
Washington (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (Gray 4-4)
Minnesota (Bauer 7-5) at Detroit (Boyd 4-4)
Milwaukee (Sexton 5-4) at Chicago White Sox (Covey 2-1)
Cincinnati (Mahle 4-6) at Kansas City (Hammel 2-6)
Houston (Cole 7-1) at Oakland (Blackburn 1-0)
Texas (Hamel 3-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Mead 4-4)
N.Y. Mets (deGrom 4-1) at Atlanta (Soroka 4-4)
Chicago Cubs (Montgomery 2-1) at Milwaukee (Chazin 5-1)
Pittsburgh (Tallent 3-5) at Arizona (Greinke 4-5)
Colorado (Anderson 3-1) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 4-5)
Cincinnati (Suarez 2-4) at Miami (Smith 5-6)
San Diego (Lander 2-4) at St. Louis (Wendel 5-5)

Saturday's Games
Toronto (Happ 8-3) at Tampa Bay
Boston (Sale 5-4) at Baltimore (Cashner 7-3)
L.A. Angels (Richards 4-4) at Seattle (Gonzalez 7-3)
Washington (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (Gray 4-4)
Minnesota (Bauer 7-5) at Detroit (Boyd 4-4)
Milwaukee (Sexton 5-4) at Chicago White Sox (Covey 2-1)
Cincinnati (Mahle 4-6) at Kansas City (Hammel 2-6)
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Texas (Hamel 3-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Mead 4-4)
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MLB/COLLEGE BASEBALL

MLB roundup

Red Sox edge Orioles in 12th

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Brock Holt and Jackie Bradley Jr. each delivered a sacrifice fly in the 12th inning, and the Boston Red Sox limited the Baltimore Orioles to five hits in a 2-0 victory Monday night.

A pitching duel between Dylan Bundy and Steven Wright was ultimately decided long after both starters departed.

Xander Bogaerts led off the 12th with a single against Mychal Givens (0-3), and the Red Sox went on to load the bases before Holt broke the scoreless deadlock with a fly to center. Bradley followed with a fly ball to score Rafael Devers, who had doubled.

Heath Hembree (3-1) struck out the side in the 11th and Craig Kimbrel got three outs for his 21st save.

It was the fifth straight loss for the Orioles, who have been shut out seven times this season.

Facing a Boston team that leads the majors in runs and batting average, Bundy gave up three hits over eight innings. He struck out seven, walked two and did not permit a runner to reach third base.

It was his fourth scoreless outing of the season, the second in a row. Last week, the right-hander blanked the Mets on three hits in seven innings.

Red Sox outfielder Mookie Betts was reinstated from the disabled list before the game and went 1-for-5 in the leadoff spot. Betts, who came in with a major league-leading .359 batting average, missed 14 games with an abdominal strain.

Mariners 5, Angels 3: Nelson Cruz homered twice and surprising Seattle overcame Mike Trout's two home runs in a win over visiting Los Angeles.

Diamondbacks 9, Pirates 5: Host Arizona scored two runs on wild pitches in the eighth inning. Jake Lamb hit a tying, three-run homer in the seventh to rally past Pittsburgh.

Indians 4, White Sox 0: Carlos Carrasco (8-4) struck out 11 while pitching two-hit ball over seven innings as visiting Cleveland blanked Chicago.

Marlins 7, Giants 5: Madison Bumgarner blew a sixth inning lead and was ejected on the way out of his second start this season and host Miami rallied past San Francisco.

Rays 8, Blue Jays 4: Jake Bauers hit his first career home run to put host Tampa Bay ahead in the fourth inning.

Cardinals 5, Padres 2: Marcell Ozuna and Jose Martinez hit two-run homers, rookie Jack Flaherty (3-2) pitched into the seventh inning, and host St. Louis beat San Diego for the 13th time in 18 meetings.



CYNDI CHAMBERS, THE GAINESVILLE SUN/AP

Florida players celebrate after Austin Langworthy hit a walk-off home run to beat Auburn 3-2 on Monday in Gainesville, Fla.

Four more teams earn CWS bids

By ERIC OLSON

Associated Press

Defending national champion Florida, Texas, Texas Tech and Arkansas won their winner-take-all games in the NCAA Tournament best-of-three super regionals on Monday and are headed to the College World Series.

The No. 1 national seed Gators beat Auburn 3-2 in 11 innings in Gainesville, Fla., when Austin Langworthy's deep drive to right field glanced off Steven Williams' glove and went over the fence for a walk-off home run.

Kody Clemens homered for a third straight game and fill-in starter Matteo Bocchi held Tennessee Tech to one run in a career-high five innings as the Longhorns locked up their NCAA record-extending 36th CWS appearance with a 5-2 win in Austin.

Texas Tech's Gabe Holt, Brian Klein and Michael Davis homered, and the Red Raiders beat Duke 6-2 in Lubbock, Texas, for their third trip in five years to the CWS in Omaha, Neb.

Arkansas' Carson Shaddy hit a three-run homer in a five-run first inning, and the Razorbacks reached the CWS for the first time since 2015 with a 14-4 win over South Carolina in Fayetteville, Ark.

CWS openers

Games Saturday:

North Carolina (43-18) vs. Oregon State (49-10-1): Tar Heels are 1-4 all-time vs. the Beavers; all five meetings in 2006-07 CWS finals.

Washington (35-24) vs. Mississippi State (37-27): Bulldogs are 4-1 vs. Huskies; last meeting in 1998.

Games Sunday:

Texas (42-21) vs. Arkansas (44-19): Longhorns are 54-30 vs. their old South-west Conference rival but lost two in Fayetteville in March.

Texas Tech (44-18) vs. Florida (47-19): Tech won 3-2 in the 2016 CWS in the teams' only meeting.

Sneaky steal

Florida took a 2-1 lead in the fourth

when Blake Reese stole home on a trick play. Auburn left-hander Andrew Mitchell was holding Nick Horvath on first when Horvath suddenly took a few steps toward second base and purposely fell. Mitchell stepped off the rubber and hesitated, then turned to throw home. Reese had already broken from third and was able to touch the plate with a head-first slide before catcher Brett Wright could get his tag down.

"It's a left-handed move," Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "Usually it's with two outs and two strikes. Really a gimmicky play. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. I think it's the first time we ran it all year. Speed on both first and third, and it happened to work out for us."

He said it

"We had five hits today and a season-low three yesterday. To be able to do that to this group of young men, I am honestly amazed, to be frank with you."

— Tennessee Tech coach Matt Bragg, on Texas shutting down the nation's No. 1 offense.

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US OPEN

NHL referee ready for US Open debut

By TERRIN WAACK
Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — Garrett Rank is trading skates for spikes on a stage far larger than anything he has experienced.

No one plays Shinnecock Hills on ice.

This week is not about blue lines and high-sticking. It's about green fairways and lag putting.

Rank's day job ended two months ago when he finished working the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs. That left Rank, an NHL referee for the last three years, enough time to qualify for his first U.S. Open.

"The reaction from the hockey community has been huge," Rank said Monday. "I think every official on our staff sent me a text and congratulated me and said they'd be following along and are really proud of me. I even had a few phone calls asking if it was me, like if that was the same Garrett Rank. I don't know too many other people with the same name. But yeah, that's me. I'm going to the U.S. Open."

The fairway isn't really an escape for the 30-year-old Canadian. Sure, it's quieter. There is less surrounding chaos. There are no whistles — any penalties typically are called by the players themselves.

Rank is simply here to play. The intensity is no different.

"You have to deal with the pressure of making a call — or I guess the pressure of making a wrong call — (and) you deal with the pressure of making a bad shot in golf," he said. "And you have to be really decisive as well. Decisive in the decisions you make about what shot you want to hit, and then obviously you have to make a decision in about a split second if you're going to call a penalty or not."

Rank made it to Shinnecock with a pair of 71s at Ansley Golf Club in Georgia, with fellow NHL referee Dan O'Rourke as his caddy. He earned one of three spots.

"What a dream come true," Rank said.

Rank's older brother, Kyle Rank, will be on the bag at the U.S. Open. Kyle caddied for Garrett two years ago at the Canadian Open and plays leisurely himself. Their father, Rich Rank, was also a hockey referee.

So, Garrett Rank has been a mix of hockey and golf since he was a kid. He even played both at the University of Waterloo in Ontario.

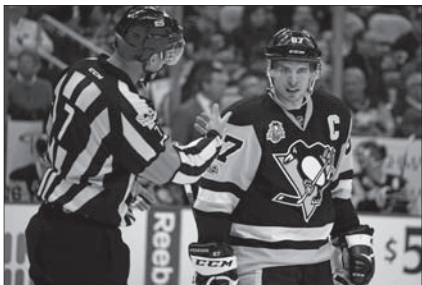
But then Rank was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2011, putting his athletic plans on hold at 22 years old. He caught it early and was declared cancer-free that same year. Ultimately, he trained as a referee to remain involved in hockey, and that became his career. Golf became something he enjoyed during free time.

"Cancer for me was kind of a blessing in disguise," Rank said. "It gave me a way better approach to hockey and golf and kind of changed my attitude that, hey, maybe that bad shot isn't really that bad or, hey, maybe this missed call really isn't that bad at the end of the day."

Perspective in pressure.

On the ice, Rank has officiated 187 career NHL games. He made his debut in 2015 and was promoted to full-time in 2016.

Inside the ropes, Rank has competed in 15 USGA events. His best result was in 2012 when he lost in the final U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship, one match away from making it to the Masters. Rank is, however, a three-time winner of the Canadian Mid-Amateur title.



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

The Penguins' Sidney Crosby, right, listens to referee Garrett Rank during a game against the Detroit Red Wings on Feb. 19, 2017 in Pittsburgh. Rank, a full-time NHL referee, will play his first U.S. Open this week at Shinnecock Hills in Southampton, N.Y.



DAVID DERNER/AP

Phil Mickelson is trying not to focus on winning the US Open this weekend, preferring instead to concentrate on putting together two rounds on Thursday and Friday solid enough to make the cut.

Mickelson still missing 1 piece of Grand Slam

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — Phil Mickelson is running out of time.

Mickelson doesn't need to be reminded that this is his 27th appearance in the U.S. Open, more than any of the 156 players at Shinnecock Hills. He wouldn't want to be reminded that 65 players — including the last four major champions — were not even born when Mickelson was low amateur in his first U.S. Open in 1990 at Medinah.

"I just can't believe that time has flown by so fast," he said Monday.

The desire hasn't changed, only the emphasis.

Mickelson didn't win a major until he was 33 and in his 12th full year on the PGA Tour. Back then, any major would have sufficed. A year after he won the 2004 Masters, he added a PGA Championship. And then in 2013 at Muirfield, he surprised even himself by capturing the British Open.

One to go for the career Grand Slam, the one that has vexed him the most.

He has more runner-up finishes in the U.S. Open than the other three majors combined. So when Mickelson was asked if he had unfinished business at Shinnecock Hills, he paused briefly before delivering an obvious answer.

"I can say that a few times in this tournament," he said.

Did you know

Phil Mickelson didn't win his first major until age 33, when he won the Masters in 2004. Now, at 47, he needs only the US Open to complete a career Grand Slam.



SOURCE: Associated Press

It helps that Mickelson has a strong history at Shinnecock Hills, which he refers to as one of his favorite courses.

He had a one-shot lead with two holes to play in 2004 when Retief Goosen made a 12-foot birdie putt in the group behind him on the par-5 16th, and then Mickelson put his tee shot in the bunker on the par-3 17th, blasted out to 5 feet and took all the air out of the Hamptons when he three-putted for double bogey.

In his first U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills in 1995, he was one shot out of the lead going into the final round, closed with a 74 and finished four shots behind. More than a tough final round was

playing the par-5 16th hole in 6 over for the week.

"If I played that hole even, I could have won," Mickelson said.

This is not a time for Mickelson, who turns 48 on Saturday, to be looking behind.

He doesn't want to look forward, either.

Never mind that Mickelson has played well on the next three U.S. Open courses — Shinnecock Hills, Pebble Beach and Winged Foot. Or that with a victory earlier this year at the Mexico Championship that his confidence level is higher than the four previous years when he didn't win at all.

Mickelson only cares about posting a score in the opening round Thursday that will keep him in the mix, and then repeating the process Friday. It's a message he delivered on four separate occasions during his interviews.

"These three (courses) provide me a great opportunity to finish out this final leg," he said. "Certainly, with the way I've been playing this year and at the consistent level, as well as at a much higher level than I've played the last few years, it gives me a great opportunity. But the last thing I'm thinking about right now is trying to win. I'm trying to get myself in position for the weekend. Because when you try to go out and win a U.S. Open, you will lose it quick."

Asked if he had ever tried to win a U.S. Open on Thursday, he replied, "Yes, and I was home Friday night."

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS



The Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant, left, was named NBA Finals MVP two straight years.

Warriors GM will give Durant deal he wants

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Warriors general manager Bob Myers expects swift negotiations to re-sign two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant and coach Steve Kerr.

Durant could sign for as long as four years and about \$160 million, and Myers is prepared to give him "whatever he wants." Durant has said all along he wants to stay put, especially after winning a pair of championships in his first two seasons with Golden State.

"Sometimes you don't negotiate. I'd love to have him for 10 years. Kevin Durant, look what he did for us last year, he did us a great service," Myers said. "He's earned the right to sign whatever deal he wants. I just want him to sign a deal. But want him to be happy and want him to know that we want him as long as he wants to be here. He's earned that, to kind of lay out the terms. He can do whatever he wants. That shouldn't be a long negotiation. Our goal, to be honest, is to try to keep the whole thing together, so that's the pieces of the puzzle we've got to try to figure out."

Kerr has one year remaining on his original five-year contract, so he would receive a multiyear extension — and Kerr wants to coach Golden State for the long haul, perhaps for another decade if he can.

He doesn't expect any difficulties in getting a deal worked out. "We'll get that done pretty quick, I don't think it'll be much



BEN MARGOT/AP

Warriors General Manager Bob Myers says he'll give Kevin Durant "whatever he wants."

to it," Kerr said.

Myers wants to keep as much of the core of the two-time defending champions intact while also realizing the Warriors will be a younger team without the same veteran presence as the group that just swept LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers to finish the finals Friday. Working to try to extend the contracts of Draymond Green and Klay Thompson could be discussed as well.

"Sure, guys have proven they can win so you want to keep that group together," Myers said. "I have no idea how that'll play out. It's a lot of different conversations that have to take place and if that's something that we want

to look into I'm sure we could have those — Klay's got another year, Draymond's got two more. Kevin's really the free agent we have to focus on."

After a regular season that was anything but steady, with Stephen Curry limited by injuries to 51 regular-season games, losing seven of 10 late, all four All-Stars out at the same time for health reasons, the Warriors on Tuesday again hosted that victory parade in downtown Oakland they planned for all along — their third in four years.

Kerr stayed healthy and on the bench while continuing to deal with symptoms stemming from a pair of back surgeries following the 2015 title.

"I'm sure if you're around our players and talk to them, they make no bones about it, they love playing for him and they love going through this journey with him," Myers said of Kerr.

Kerr plans to take it easy for the next several months and not work much as Myers handles the contracts and money, while leaving summer league coaching duties to Willie Green.

It's still sinking in for Kerr just how much success the Warriors have had during this four-year stretch since he became coach ahead of the 2014-15 season.

"I never could have envisioned this. I know when I took this job I thought we could be really good," Kerr said. "I could never have dreamt of three titles in four years. It's pretty incredible to be a part of the group and the organization."

Briefly

Source: Nurse to coach Raptors

Associated Press

Nick Nurse spent almost three decades paying his coaching dues, toiling with teams in Britain, Italy and Belgium, college basketball and the G League.

The chance he's long coveted has finally arrived.

Nurse has agreed to become the next coach of the Toronto Raptors, a person with direct knowledge of the hire told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Nurse will be replacing his former boss, Dwane Casey — under whom he spent the past five seasons as a Raptors assistant. Casey was fired after the Raptors were swept out of the second round of this year's playoffs by Cleveland.

Nurse and the Raptors were completing contract terms Tuesday, according to the person who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced. ESPN first reported the hiring.

The hire seems to suggest there will be at least some continuity between what the Raptors have been doing and what they'll do on his watch. Toronto went 59-23 this season, the best record in the Eastern Conference and second-best record in the NBA behind only Houston — and Nurse will be in charge of the offense, led by All-Star guards DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry.

The decision comes a month after Casey was let go and one day after he was hired by the Detroit Pistons as their new coach.

Olympic skier Miller's daughter drowns in pool

LOS ANGELES — The 19-month-old daughter of U.S. Olympic skier Bode Miller drowned in a Southern California swimming pool, authorities said Monday.

Emeline Miller died at an Orange County hospital Sunday, the day after paramedics tried unsuccessfully to revive her after the drowning incident.

"We are beyond devastated," Miller said in an Instagram post that showed several photos of the blonde, blue-eyed, chubby-cheeked toddler.

In a video, Emmy, as she was known, was being kissed on the cheek by her mother Morgan as she repeatedly said, "Hi Dada."

One photo showed her covered in suds in a tub and another showed her smiling as she pushed two baby dolls in a pink stroller on a street with large homes in the background.

"Never in a million years did we think we would experience a pain like this," Miller said in the post. "Her love, her light, her spirit will never be forgotten. Our little girl loved life and lived it to its fullest every day."

The death was under investigation, Orange County sheriff's spokeswoman Carrie Braun said.

Paramedics were called to a home in the upscale enclave of Coto de Caza just before 6:30 p.m. Saturday, said Capt. Tony Bommarito of the Orange County Fire Authority.

They tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate the girl and rushed her to an emergency room, Bommarito said.

"They had no pulse the whole way," Bommarito said. "It didn't end well."

Red Sox activate Betts from disabled list

BALTIMORE — Mookie Betts and his big league-best .359 batting average are back with the Boston Red Sox, who activated the outfielder from the disabled list Monday and put him in the leadoff spot against the Baltimore Orioles.

Betts missed 14 games with an abdominal strain. Boston went 8-6 in his absence and started play Monday a half-game behind the first-place New York Yankees in the AL East.

"It was just a matter of letting it kind of heal," said Betts, who hit 17 home runs before being placed on the 10-DL on June 1. "We'll see how I feel after the game today and go from there."

Betts' return was quicker than many had anticipated.

"We talked about it yesterday, man and Mook," said Red Sox manager Alex Cora. "He feels comfortable that he can compete at this level, the way he is right now."

In addition to leading the big leagues in hitting, Betts is first in on-base percentage (.437) and slugging percentage (.750). He's also tied for first with 52 runs.

In other MLB news:

■ Baltimore Orioles left-hander Zach Britton has been activated from the disabled list, six months after undergoing surgery to repair a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Assuming he's finally healthy enough to resume his role as one of the best closers in the big leagues, the question now is: How long will Britton be with the Orioles?

Britton's contract expires after this season, and Baltimore entered play Monday with the worst record in the major leagues (19-45).

So, as he stood in front of his locker and spoke excitedly about his return to the Orioles, Britton conceded that his stay in Baltimore may not extend beyond the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline.

"I want to pitch well and help the team, regardless of our standing or trade discussions," he said.

Asked if the next few weeks might serve as an audition for other teams, Britton replied, "I guess so, but I'm not going to think of it like that."

WORLD CUP



DAVID VINCENT/AP

France's Ousmane Dembele, center, celebrates with teammate Benjamin Mendy on Monday in Glebovets, Russia.

Emerging stars look to shine

By JEROME PUGMIRE
Associated Press

At the last World Cup, Colombia forward James Rodriguez became one of the stars of the tournament with his trickery and eye for a spectacular goal.

Expect others to step up at this year's tournament.

Here's a look at some young players hoping to make a big impact at the World Cup in Russia:

Benjamin Mendy

When France won the World Cup in 1998, it was formidably effective down the left flank. Playmaker Zinedine Zidane would wait for left back Bixente Lizarazu to push up and they would swap passes with devastating speed.

France has a left back in the making in Benjamin Mendy. Quick, powerful and skillful, the 23-year-old Mendy excelled for Monaco when it won the French league and reached the Champions League semifinals in 2017. It earned him a move to Manchester City, where a serious knee injury curtailed his progress. He recovered to play in City's last few games of the season.

The attack-minded Mendy is also quick enough to track back when a move breaks down.

Timo Werner



Werner

in 12 appearances.

Timo Werner overcame injury and a mid-season slump to reaffirm his status as Germany's leading striker.

The 22-year-old forward is virtually assured of his starting place in the national team after helping Leipzig claim a Europa League place. He finished strongly with two goals and two assists in his last two games.

Werner scored 21 goals in all competitions this season and looks back to his best. Werner has explosive pace, strength and the ability to open up space and create opportunities for himself and teammates. The hard-working forward has scored seven goals

Marco Asensio

Marco Asensio runs with the power and grace of former Brazil midfielder Kaka. The 22-year-old Spain midfielder likewise possesses a ferocious shot from outside the penalty area, excellent close control and endless stamina.

Asensio has a full passing range, too, either quickly to feet when playing it short, or hit with a golfer's precision so the ball drops perfectly when playing it long.

Asensio has shown his tactical versatility when playing for Real Madrid, and is lethal on counterattacks with quick one-twos.

Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta were the heartbeat in Spain's midfield when it won the 2010 World Cup. It could be Asensio's time to shine.

Ousmane Dembele

Ousmane Dembele is even quicker than France teammate Kylian Mbappe.

The 20-year-old forward is lethal launching runs from deep and is near-unstoppable when he's in full flow.

Dembele displayed his vast repertoire in a Spanish league game for Barcelona against Villarreal recently. Receiving the ball near the halfway line with his back to play, he flicked it with his heel and beat three players before passing for Philippe Coutinho to score.

Dembele also scored a superb solo goal: a mixture of strength, skill and speed. Turning again from midfield, he took the ball past several players and dinked it over the goalkeeper.

His exquisite finish had a touch of former Brazil great Ronaldo about it.

Jordan Pickford

England used to be renowned for commanding goalkeepers, with Gordon Banks and Peter Shilton widely respected for their composure under pressure. But the position has been a thorn in England's side for quite some time, and Joe Hart's limitations were exposed at the European Championship two years ago.

It could be Jordan Pickford's time to secure the No. 1 jersey.

The 24-year-old goalkeeper has impressed since joining Everton for 30 million pounds (\$41 million), making him — at the time — the world's third most expensive goalkeeper.

England coach Gareth Southgate admires Pickford's ability to pass the ball out from the back, and Pickford has always been a fine shot-stopper.

Gabriel Jesus

Brazil has always produced superb forwards: Pele, Romario, Ronaldo and Neymar to name a few. Now, Gabriel Jesus hopes to emulate them.

The 21-year-old striker is a predator like Romario was. Although he is also extremely hard-working, it doesn't affect his finishing, and Jesus remains a penalty-box threat.

He has good pace and skill but his strongest attribute is his mobility. Jesus does not stop moving, thereby disrupting defenders' constant.

Gabriel Jesus

MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

Strategy: Don't expect tactical surprises in Russia

FROM BACK PAGE

Carlos Alberto Parreira, Brazil's World Cup-winning coach from 1994, is now a member of FIFA's technical study group — comprising former players and national-team coaches who will analyze games and produce a report later this year — and he predicted an approach that will see teams "defend with as many players as possible" and play on the counterattack.

"Very compact teams, with lots of players behind the ball, closing down space and playing at pace on the attack," Parreira said.

FIFA, of course, is hoping for a festival of soccer over the coming weeks, following on from a World Cup in Brazil in 2014 that the governing body's panel of coaching experts said saw teams "play positively and do everything to win a game rather than merely 'not lose.'"

There were 171 goals that tournament at an average of 2.67 per game, tying the record set in France in 1998. In 2002, '06 and '10, the average did not get above 2.52.

In this season's Champions League, however, there were 401 goals at an average of 3.2 per game — rising to 3.6 per game in the knockout stage. It was the highest total since the tournament's rebrand in 1992, with only the 1975-76 European Cup delivering more, as coaches saw attack often as the best form of defense.

Marco van Basten, FIFA's chief technical development officer, told The Associated Press that soccer has been played more positively since Barcelona's recent glut of trophies using the approach implemented by Johan Cruyff at the club in the 1990s and previously by Dutch coach Rinus Michels — with his "Total Football" — in the mid-1970s.

"As a consequence of the sporting successes Barcelona gained with that playing style, many coaches like their teams to play attacking football," Van Basten said in an email, "and for fans this is definitely more spectacular to watch. I think it is very positive that everyone appreciates this attractive style of play, but in the end results count as well."

Don't expect tactical surprises in Russia. The club game has left international teams in its wake since the 1960s, before which nations — like Hungary with its 3-2-1-4 in 1954 and Brazil with its 4-2-4 in 1958 — arrived at World Cups displaying innovative formations that dumbfounded opponents.

The most common formations this summer will be 4-2-3-1, which was widely used in 2010 and '14, and the 4-3-3 used by Liverpool and Real Madrid on their runs to the Champions League final. However, the three-man defense has made a comeback of sorts this year, and England, Argentina and Belgium are among those set to adopt it in Russia.

Most coaches will play with one out-and-out striker and want to dominate midfield. Having a pressing game is the vogue — Brazil, under forward-thinking coach Tite, is the latest high-profile nation to do so, joining the likes of Spain, Germany and England — but that requires time to perfect and master, even at club level.

"No team will win the World Cup without pressing," Wilson said. "But I think there will be a far greater tendency to sit deep and try to absorb pressure, because it's easier."

That's what largely happened at the expanded European Championship in 2016, featuring 24 teams for the first time. The quality of soccer was watered down as the weaker nations packed their defenses and picked their moments to play on the counterattack.

That could be the case in a 48-team World Cup, which FIFA is planning to introduce from as early as 2022 in Qatar.

As it is, 32 nations are heading to Russia and neutrals will be hoping the unruliness of this season's Champions League is infectious.

WORLD CUP

Morocco calls out US 2026 revenue claims

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

Associated Press

MOSCOW — In a FIFA election where money could be key, Morocco tried to heap doubt on North American promises of multi-billion dollar 2026 World Cup profits on Monday.

Moroccan jibes at projections from the United States-Canada-Mexico bid came when leaders of the rival campaigns met voters from five of FIFA's six continental groups.

"There is lots of uncertainty," Morocco Football Federation president Fouzi Lekjaa said of the detail in American pledges of \$14.3 billion revenue for FIFA.

"That doesn't correspond either to historical facts or future extrapolation, it's an exercise that goes beyond that," Lekjaa said in French.

Money will not be the only factor on the minds of up to 206 elected FIFA member states who can vote on Wednesday in Moscow.

Still, a FIFA-appointed panel



ANDELJAUIL BOUNHAR/AP

A giant screen displays the logo of Morocco 2026 before a press conference in Casablanca, Morocco, to promote Morocco's bid to host the 2026 World Cup.

assessing the two candidates already noted the "significantly higher" number than Morocco's projected income of \$7.2 billion for football's governing body from a 48-team tournament.

Morocco's counterattack is that \$5 billion pure profit for FIFA would be a World Cup record.

"We do not blush when we pro-

pose that," Morocco tourism minister Lamia Bouteleb said in an impassioned speech to 53 African voters in a Moscow hotel conference center.

The Moroccan bid team took to the stage at a Confederation for African Football (CAF) meeting minutes after the North Americans presented their plan to what

shaped as its most hostile audience of the day.

"We have shown the best we have to offer to all the FIFA members," Decio de Maria, the Mexico federation president, said.

Though the American team was met with just polite applause, and no follow-up questions, it still hopes for African votes on Wednesday.

Liberia, Namibia, and Zimbabwe pledged support before arriving in Russia, and the North Americans have targeted voters in the southern African group known as COSAFA.

It was perhaps telling that CAF President Ahmad stressed the need to "show cohesion within our continent" in a contest where FIFA will publish each member's choice soon after the ballot.

"There is an obligation to remain within our family," the Madagascar official said. "But of course it is an individual choice." The African meeting began with Ahmad announcing his first vice president, Kwesi Nyantakyi, resigned from CAF and FIFA's

ruling council while facing a corruption investigation in his native Ghana.

A television documentary last week showed Nyantakyi taking \$65,000 in cash from undercover reporters posing as businessmen to secure favor with Ghana President Nana Akufo-Addo and other government officials.

Ghana can vote on Wednesday, though Moroccan attempts to pressure FIFA into acting against four American territories seem sure to fail.

FIFA election rules suggested American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands could be barred from voting by a potential conflict of interest.

"Our voting delegate has a New Zealand passport," American Samoa official Sandra Fruean, a FIFA Council member, told The Associated Press.

The last-minute lobbying continued on Tuesday morning at another central Moscow hotel, where the rival bid teams make presentations to 54 European voters.

Putin-led bid under investigation 8 years later

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

Associated Press

GENEVA — Speaking in English with a beaming smile, Vladimir Putin put his seal on Russia's World Cup hosting vote victory that eight years later is still under criminal investigation.

"From bottom of my heart, thank you," Putin said, a comment directed at now-discredited FIFA executive committee voters to kick off his news conference with a four-minute statement. International media in Zurich had waited for hours after the result was announced for the architect of victory to be jetted in from Russia.

Putin was only the prime minister, not president, when Russia beat three rivals to secure world sport's most-watched event.

It was clearly his triumph on Dec. 2, 2010 in a campaign that got stronger through the year as Putin became more involved.

"He is the engine of this bid," then-sports minister and FIFA voter Vitaly Mutko told The Associated Press in a March 2010 interview. "He does everything that he can to support our bid."

"We want to show to the world the new Russia, open and hospitable in every sense," Mutko said through a translator at the Baur au Lac Hotel in Zurich eight years ago.

It was Putin sitting alone on a wide, high stage at a Zurich convention center as the lone Russian voice explaining what victory meant.

After his English speech, he answered questions in Russian for 50 minutes, short by his marathon standards, pointing to each inquisitor in the seats below. Applause followed his answers to testier questions posed by mostly western European media.

We are honored to win in this tough and fair bid," Putin said. "Together, let us make sure that football promotes fair play, tolerance, honor."

Many FIFA watchers, and some from the beaten England bid, struggled to believe it was a result achieved by fair means.

That is despite a FIFA ethics committee investigation into all nine candidates from the 2018-2022 hosting contests which cleared the Russian bid, albeit with lim-

ited evidence-gathering powers and no access to the famously destroyed campaign computers.

What sustains doubts is that investigations by federal prosecutors in the United States, Switzerland and France, and FIFA's ethics court, suggest some of the 22 men who voted never picked a World Cup host on soccer merits alone.

One likely Russia voter was Chuck Blazer, the late American whose tax affairs, confession of taking South African money in the 2010 World Cup vote, and cooperation with the FBI fueled much of a devastating investigation of corruption linked to FIFA officials.

In his travel blog days before the vote, Blazer detailed an August 2010 visit to the Kremlin where he high-fived Putin during "a half hour exchange of wit, charm and effective communications."

In Russia's defense, it is now clear that an obviously corrupt group of FIFA voters — the South American trio of Julio Gronzona, Nicolas Leoz and Ricardo Teixeira — was backing the rival Spain-Portugal 2018 bid. It was widely reported to have a rule-breaking, vote-sharing pact with Qatar's winning 2022 campaign.

"All the fish are sold," according to Spanish bid CEO Miguel Angel Lopez. His confidence suggested voters had decided and were immune to eve-of-pol pressure from superstar lobbying at the Baur au Lac.

Putin stayed in Russia, saying he would not pressure voters who had been "smeared."

Meanwhile, former U.S. President Bill Clinton held audiences in the luxury hotel for the U.S. 2022 bid, and Prince William worked for England.

Putin's absence, one day after a news conference with downbeat Russian officials in Zurich, added to the sense Spain-Portugal was the favorite, England was gaining, and the bicycle-friendly Netherlands-Belgium bid was a fun outsider.

The vote was not close. Russia led the first round, as tactical voting removed England, and swept the second with 13 votes. Spain-Portugal stayed stuck on seven, exactly the



KURT SCHORRER, POOL/AP

In this Dec. 2, 2010 photo, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, right, shakes hands with FIFA President Joseph Blatter after Russia was announced as the host for the 2018 soccer World Cup. Putin was not yet president when Russia won the 2018 World Cup hosting campaign that is still under criminal investigation.

size of its alleged Qatari pact.

Sepp Blatter, the Russia-supporting FIFA president, would blame some American and English losers for provoking criminal and media probes.

In truth, the FBI and Sunday Times newspaper began their work months before election day. It emerged that both used as a source Christopher Steele, a Russia expert formerly in Britain's intelligence service, and author of a dossier on current U.S. President Donald Trump.

Fighting for its reputation in 2012, FIFA beefed up an ethics panel whose investigation into the 2018-2022 World Cup contests would be led by Michael Garcia, a former U.S. Attorney in New York.

Garcia would not handle the Russian angle. In 2013, he was banned from entering the country for having once prosecuted a Russian arms dealer sentenced to 25 years in prison.

The Russian investigation was led by

Swiss prosecutor Cornel Borbély, who found no evidence bid officials unduly influenced voters. However, campaign computers leased from the Konoplyov Football Academy, linked to Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich, were destroyed and email accounts never recovered from Google's American offices.

Also in 2014, a British parliamentary committee working with the Sunday Times published a report with unproven intelligence claims linking Putin to a bilateral gas deal with Qatar that included mutual support for World Cup votes.

Now, a Swiss federal investigation into potential money laundering linked to the 2018-2022 campaigns is in its fourth year. It has had no effect on Russia's preparations to host the World Cup and welcome visiting fans.

"You can get to know Russia," Putin said in English the day he won. "Not bad, not bad at all."

SPORTS



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NL Central lead » **MLB, Page 26**

WORLD CUP



Fielding a strategy

Analysts say not to expect drama of Champions League in Russia

By STEVE DOUGLAS
Associated Press

A spirit of chaos and adventure swept through this season's Champions League, serving up a record number of goals and almost non-stop drama when the top teams collided.

It was club football at its most thrilling. Fans might never have had it so good.

So can the World Cup, supposedly the zenith of the international game, come close to matching it?

History suggests we shouldn't get our hopes up, despite most of the world's best players on show in Russia.

"National teams often lag behind the clubs, and it's understandable why," said Jonathan Wilson, author of "Inverting The Pyramid: The History of Football Tactics." "There's a tendency to keep things pretty

simple at international level."

Wilson's prediction for the next few weeks in Russia?

"I think there will be a lot of games featuring teams with eight men behind the ball and just seeing what happens," he said. "It could be pretty unifying."

This viewpoint stems from the simple notion that international coaches don't get as much time with their players as their club counterparts, and that it's much easier — especially for the weaker nations — to organize a compact defense than a fluid attack.

There are other factors in play, too. There's no transfer market in international football so it's harder for coaches to mold their ideal team. The best coaches are often found in the club game because of the financial riches on offer. And there's often an in-built conservatism at major tournaments.

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